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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

ANNUAL REPORT

(18 April 1991 – 15 April 1992)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
OFFICIAL RECORDS, 1992

SUPPLEMENT No. 12

UNITED NATIONS

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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Annual Report covering the period from 18 April 1991 to 15 April 1992

INTRODUCTION

1. The present Annual Report was adopted unanimously by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) at the eighth meeting of its forty-seventh session on 15 April 1992.

CHAPTER I

ISSUES CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

2. No draft decisions were recommended by the Commission for action by the Council.

CHAPTER II

WORK OF THE COMMISSION SINCE ITS FORTY-SIXTH SESSION

A. Activities of subsidiary bodies

3. A list of meetings held since the forty-sixth session is contained in Annex II, showing in each case the dates, the officers and the symbol of the report. These reports reflect the discussions held and record the agreements reached and decisions taken. The reports of the Principal Subsidiary Bodies and Working Parties reporting directly to the Commission contain also the programmes of work adopted by these bodies.

B. Other activities

4. Pursuant to the decisions of the Commission, the Executive Secretary submitted to the forty-seventh session a number of progress reports on projects carried out under the direct authority of the Commission itself. (See Annex III)

5. The secretariat serviced the regular session of the Commission, meetings of its subsidiary bodies, and other meetings held under its auspices. Periodic reviews, including the annual Economic Survey of Europe, the Economic Bulletin for Europe and a series of specialized statistical bulletins, were published. The secretariat maintained close and regular liaison with United Nations Headquarters and cooperated with the Departments concerned, as well as with the secretariats of the other regional commissions on projects of common interest.

C. Relations with other United Nations Programmes

6. The cooperation of the Commission and its secretariat in 1991/1992 with United Nations specialized agencies and other international organizations, as well as with their secretariats is described in document E/ECE/1255.

CHAPTER III

FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

A. Attendance and organization of work

7. The forty-seventh session of the Commission was held from 7 to 15 April 1992. At its opening session the Commission heard statements by the Chairman, by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, by the Under-Secretary-General, Department of Economic and Social Development, and by the Executive Secretary.

8. The forty-seventh session was attended by representatives from Albania, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Yugoslavia.

9. The session was attended by representatives of the European Community (EC).

10. The Holy See was represented under article 8 of the Commission's terms of reference.

11. Chile, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia were represented under article 11 of the Commission's terms of reference.

12. Representatives of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (HABITAT) and the following specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations were in attendance: International Labour Organisation (ILO); Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); International Monetary Fund (IMF); World Meteorological Organization (WMO); United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

13. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: International Chamber of Commerce (ICC); International Council of Women (ICW); World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA); International Bar Association (IBA); International Federation of University Women (IFUW); Planetary Citizens.

14. A complete list of participants can be found in document E/ECE(47)/L.2 and Corr.1.

15. The Commission decided to pass to the Sessional Committee, in addition to agenda item 2(c) - Work of the Principal Subsidiary Bodies of the Commission and Working Parties reporting directly to the Commission - the following agenda items, for preliminary consideration:

2(a) - EDIFACT (The Commission's activities and implementation of priorities since the forty-sixth session)

4(a) - Cooperation in the field of economic analysis and assistance to countries in transition

4(b) - International cooperation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant

4(c) - Cooperation in the field of environment and sustainable development

4(d) - Cooperation in the field of transport

6 - The future work of the Commission in regard to cooperation in the ECE region, particularly in the light of Commission decision O (45)

7 - Programme of work for 1992-1996

16. The Sessional Committee met from 7 to 10 April 1992. The account of the consideration by the Sessional Committee of item 2(c) can be found in paragraphs 49 to 141 below. The account of the discussion on those items which had been assigned to the Sessional Committee for preliminary consideration, referred to above, are contained in paragraphs 38-44, 182-189, 201-213 and 220-223 below. For the recommendations of the Sessional Committee to the Plenary and the action taken by the Commission on these recommendations, see paragraphs 214 to 219 below.

B. Agenda

17. The Commission adopted its agenda (E/ECE/1248) which read as follows:

1. Adoption of the Agenda

2. Work of the Commission as a whole since the forty-sixth session (Commission decision A (46)) and implementation of decision O (45):

    (a) The Commission's activities and implementation of priorities since the forty-sixth session (Commission resolution 2 (XXV) E/ECE/1251 E/ECE/1252/Rev.1 E/ECE/1253

    (b) Report of the Chairman on the ad hoc Informal Meetings of the Commission held since the forty-sixth session (decision P (45))

    (c) Work of the Principal Subsidiary Bodies of the Commission and Working Parties reporting directly to the Commission [1]

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[1] Documentation for this sub-item:

Senior Economic Advisers to ECE Governments	ECE/EC.AD/38
Committee on Agriculture	ECE/AGRI/118
Timber Committee	ECE/TIM/59
Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems	ECE/ENVWA/24 and Add.1
Committee on Human Settlements	ECE/HBP/83
Committee on the Development of Trade	ECE/TRADE/178
Committee on Energy	ECE/ENERGY/18
Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Science and Technology	ECE/SC.TECH/42
Inland Transport Committee	ECE/TRANS/94 and Add.1
Conference of European Statisticians	ECE/CES/38
Working Party on the Chemical Industry	ECE/CHEM/83
Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation (did not meet since the forty-sixth session)	
Working Party on Standardization Policies	ECE/STAND/34
Working Party on Steel	ECE/STEEL/76

    (d) Cooperation and coordination of activities with other international organizations and institutions E/ECE/1255

    (e) Commission's activities designed to assist countries of the region in transition to a market economy and their integration with the European and global economy E/ECE/1254

    (f) Commission's contribution to the United Nations programmes designed to assist countries of the region which are developing from the economic point of view and developing countries of other regions E/ECE/1256

    (g) Resolutions bearing on the work of the Commission adopted by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly E/ECE/1257

3. Review of the economic situation in Europe

4. Follow-up action on relevant Commission decisions:

    (a) Cooperation in the field of economic analysis and assistance to countries in transition (decision B (46)) E/ECE/1258

    (b) International cooperation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant (decision C (46)) E/ECE/1259

    (c) Cooperation in the field of environment and sustainable development (decision E (46)) E/ECE/1260

    (d) Cooperation in the field of transport (decision F (46)) E/ECE/1261

    (e) Economic cooperation in the Mediterranean in the light of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (decision L (45)) E/ECE/1262

5. Activities of the Economic Commission for Europe to implement the pertinent provisions of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and other CSCE documents, including the Charter of Paris for a New Europe E/ECE/1263

6. The future work of the Commission in regard to cooperation in the ECE region, particularly in the light of Commission decision O (45) E/ECE/1264

7. Programme of work for 1992-1996 E/ECE/1265

8. Other business

9. Election of Officers

10. Annual Report of the Commission

C. Election of Officers

18. The Chairman of the forty-seventh session of the Commission was Mr. Andrei A. Ozadovski (Ukraine), and the Vice-Chairman was Mr. William Rossier (Switzerland).

19. The Chairman of the Sessional Committee was Ms. Jutta Wolke (Germany). At its opening session the Commission elected Mr. Kalin A. Borissov (Bulgaria) as Vice-Chairman of the Sessional Committee.

20. Mrs. Justine Gentile (Belgium) and Mr. Jaroslav Stepanek (Czech and Slovak Federal Republic) were appointed Rapporteurs.

21. At its closing meeting the Commission unanimously elected Mr. William Rossier (Switzerland), Chairman and Mr. Bernard Miyet (France), Vice-Chairman respectively, of the forty-eighth session of the Commission.

22. On the understanding that the Commission would follow established practices and set up a Sessional Committee at its forty-eighth session, it unanimously elected Mr. Kalin A. Borissov (Bulgaria), Chairman and Ms. Bettina Kirnbauer (Austria), Vice-Chairman of the Sessional Committee for the forty-eighth session.

23. The delegation of the Russian Federation noted that the Commission had in the past respected the principle of geographical distribution in the election of its officers. It suggested that the same principle be observed in future taking into account the new realities in Europe and the interests of the 14 countries of eastern Europe in transition. It stated that the composition of the Bureau for the forty-eighth session should not constitute a precedent and that the countries in transition should be adequately represented in future bureaux of the Commission.

D. Account of proceedings

Work of the Commission as a whole since the forty-sixth session and implementation of decision O (45)

(agenda item 2)

24. The Commission considered sub-items 2(a), (b) and (d) to (g) in Plenary, together with items 5 (Activities of the Economic Commission for Europe to implement the pertinent provisions of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and other CSCE documents, including the Charter of Paris for a New Europe) and 6 (The future work of the Commission in regard to cooperation in the ECE region, particularly in the light of Commission decision O (45)). Points raised in the discussion concerning each of these items or sub-items are reported separately, under the appropriate headings below. Sub-item 2(c) (Work of the Principal Subsidiary Bodies of the Commission and Working Parties reporting directly to the Commission) and the component of sub-item 2(a) on EDIFACT, were considered in the Sessional Committee.

25. At its eighth meeting, the Commission adopted its decision A (47) on the work of the Commission as a whole and its future activities (for the text see Chapter IV).

The Commission's activities and implementation of priorities since the forty-sixth session

(agenda item 2(a))

Documentation: E/ECE/1251, 1252/Rev.1 and 1253

26. A number of delegations welcomed the supportive statement of the Secretary-General of the United Nations at the opening of the session which highlighted the key tasks facing the United Nations system including its regional commissions in finding solutions for numerous political, economic and social problems.

27. Delegations noted that the session was taking place at a time when the ECE region continued to experience historic changes which posed new challenges and created the need for new cooperative solutions. Some of these developments were also seen as a source of uncertainty and concern.

28. Noting that the Commission's membership had increased from 34 to 40 countries since the last session, delegations warmly welcomed the new member countries of Estonia, Israel, Latvia, Lithuania, the Republic of Moldova and San Marino. Delegations reaffirmed their conviction that the Commission was an important instrument to foster greater regional and global economic cooperation. They advocated that new members be treated as full partners of a democratic community of nations and that the Commission's subsidiary bodies share their expertise with the new member countries as expeditiously as possible.

29. The past year had been marked by varying developments in the different parts of Europe, including the processes of disintegration and integration. Many delegations spoke of the disintegration of the former Soviet Union and Yugoslavia and the consequent creation of new independent states. The old east-west partition of Europe had been replaced by new structures for cooperation and economic links. The countries in central and eastern Europe had continued on the road towards parliamentary democracy and a market economy. However, the euphoria of 1989 had given way to a growing realization that the process of economic and political transformation would be a long and arduous task. Many delegations drew attention to the fragility of the transition process under new economic and political pressures. The Governments of the economies in transition were commended for the determination and courage which they had displayed in the face of the present economic, social and political difficulties. On the other hand, and equally significant for many delegations, were the integration processes taking place at the regional and sub-regional levels, where economic cooperation and free-trade agreements between countries from all parts of the region were being established.

30. The delegation of Portugal, speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, and the representative of the Commission of the European Communities described the progress achieved towards the final phase of the formation of a Single Market. They highlighted the signing of the historic Maastricht Treaty in February 1992 which established guidelines leading to political, monetary and economic union. The Community would continue to reinforce its cooperation with the rest of the world. Several delegations referred to their recent application for membership in the European Community and many delegations of countries in transition expressed their intention to seek the closest possible ties with the European Community.

31. A number of delegations referred to projects and activities at the regional and sub-regional levels designed to enhance European cooperation in the areas of the Baltic region, the Black Sea, the Mediterranean, the Danube region, and in central Europe with the Central European Initiative. One delegation commented on the project for the construction of a dam on the Danube river and expressed the belief that a solution could be found to avoid undesirable environmental and ecological consequences. It urged starting trilateral expert investigations in order to prevent the escalation of the conflict.

32. Many delegations drew attention to the sombre economic situation in the ECE region. With respect to the western industrial countries, it was pointed out that the economic performance had been disappointing in 1991. There had been a general weakening of output growth and several countries had remained in or had moved into recession. The overall slowdown had also resulted in a significant rise in unemployment, whereas inflationary pressures had attenuated in most western countries.

33. In assessing economic developments in the countries in transition of central and eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, delegates noted the complexity of the transformation

processes. The changes in the economic system, the introduction of stabilization measures and the collapse of the former CMEA trade relations had all contributed significantly to the recession in the east. The fall in output had accelerated and unemployment had risen considerably in 1991.

34. The events in Europe had prompted Governments to reflect on the future of the continent and their role in it including an assessment of the Commission and its place in the new Europe. In the view of many delegations, the Commission constituted a unique forum for the continuous and substantive exchange of views on the ongoing economic reform process. With decisions O (45) and P (45) the Commission had adapted its structure and working methods to the new conditions for economic cooperation in the region. By identifying environment, transport, statistics, trade facilitation and economic analysis as priority areas of activity, the ECE had decided to concentrate on areas where it had a comparative advantage. The decision to convene workshops and other informal fora as primary work methods to address transition issues was also commended. Although considerable work had been done to implement decision O (45), it was felt that further follow-up action was necessary in all relevant bodies of the ECE and especially regarding the allocation of staff and other resources to the priority areas.

35. Many delegations reaffirmed their support for the important work in the field of statistics and economic analysis, particularly in helping countries in transition to accomplish their ongoing process of reforms. The Economic Survey of Europe in 1991-1992 was praised for its high quality and uniqueness and was seen as a valuable contribution to both Governments and the business community. One delegation strongly supported the principles and guidelines adopted by the Conference of European Statisticians in June 1991. Another delegation praised the efforts made to achieve cooperation and coordination of activities with other organizations and institutions active in the field of statistics.

36. Delegations expressed appreciation of the work accomplished and the results achieved in the field of environment and water during the past year. Particular mention was made of progress in elaborating and implementing legally binding instruments for environmental protection. Delegations welcomed the adoption of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents. Continued support was expressed for the on-going work to implement the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context. Delegations welcomed the adoption of the Protocol on Volatile Organic Compounds and the preparation of the Protocol on Further Reductions of Emissions of Sulphur Compounds. They also expressed appreciation of the regional cooperation for the management of hazardous chemicals. One delegation underlined the indispensable work carried out by the Task Force on Economic Aspects of Abatement Strategies and the work on critical loads. Two delegations welcomed the steps taken to contribute to the preparations for the Conference on Environment for Europe to be held in Switzerland in 1992/1993. Some delegations expressed appreciation of the Commission's contribution to the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

37. Delegations underlined the importance of transport questions in the context of the economic and social changes occurring in the region and the importance they attached to ECE work in this priority area. Particular mention was made of the activities in the field of transport of dangerous goods, the Trans-European Motorway (TEM) and Trans-European Railway (TER) projects, the European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations, and the elaboration of Pan-European Transport Networks.

38. Emphasizing the importance they attached to the Commission's work in the area of trade facilitation, notably the continuing development and global extension of the UN/EDIFACT project, many delegations expressed their concern and regret that the necessary staff resources had not yet been provided for this priority project.

39. During the discussion of EDIFACT in the Sessional Committee, several delegations reported on the administrative and institutional measures taken in their countries to establish an appropriate framework for the introduction and implementation of the EDIFACT system.

40. All delegations speaking on this item commented favourably on the international and national development of the UN/EDIFACT system and expressed their appreciation for the progress made by the Working Party. However, the new officers of Group of Experts No. 1 and the Group of Experts itself were urged to work with maximum speed, efficiency and professionalism on standardization in connection with EDIFACT. Delegations expressed serious concern at the critical situation regarding the resources required for this activity, especially the intolerable delay in recruitment to vacant posts. They urged the Executive Secretary to do everything in his power to give effect as soon as possible to the recommendations for the recruitment of the necessary staff as well as to obtain the long-promised equipment and services. While expressing their wish to see EDIFACT activities remain within the most appropriate forum, namely ECE, they emphasized the real and imminent risk of the transfer of this priority area of work to a framework other than the United Nations and ECE if the recruitment decisions were not taken immediately.

41. The same delegations expressed regret that, at a time of considerable national and international development of UN/EDIFACT necessitating, inter alia, more coordination by the ECE secretariat, the secretariat was not in a position to respond to that need.

42. The secretariat was asked by one delegation - supported by others - just how it intended to deal with the staffing problem if the freeze was not lifted or an exception not made. The secretariat explained that in that case it might consider the less desirable solution of shifting personnel internally and retraining them.

43. Following an appeal by the secretariat for Governments and businesses in member countries to contribute to the trust fund for EDIFACT, the delegate of France said such action might be considered if the secretariat met at least two conditions, namely: the establishment of budget estimates and the provision of assurances that it would be able to manage all aspects of the fund.

44. The secretariat said that those conditions were both acceptable and consistent with its practice in similar cases.

45. Several delegations voiced their support for the Commission's activities in the field of energy. The work carried out by the Energy Efficiency 2000 Project was highly valued and strongly supported by many delegations.

46. A number of delegations expressed their support for ECE's work in the fields of standardization, agriculture, timber, human settlements, the steel and chemical industries, as well as engineering industries and automation.

47. At its eighth meeting, the Commission adopted its decision B (47) on the provision of adequate resources for the servicing of the priority sectors of the Economic Commission for Europe (for the text see Chapter IV).

Report of the Chairman on the ad hoc Informal Meetings of the Commission held since the forty-sixth session

(agenda item 2(b))

48. The Chairman made a statement concerning the ad hoc Informal Meetings which he had convened in accordance with decision P (45) since the forty-sixth session.

Work of the Principal Subsidiary Bodies of the Commission and Working Parties reporting directly to the Commission
(agenda item 2(c))

Senior Economic Advisers to ECE Governments

Documentation: ECE/EC.AD/38, E/ECE/1258

49. This item was discussed together with item 4(a) - Cooperation in the field of economic analysis and assistance to countries in transition.

50. Speakers under this item commended the Economic Survey of Europe in 1991-1992 for its high quality and its relevance and utility for the work of the Senior Economic Advisers.

51. Reference was made to the usefulness of the further development by the secretariat of the specialized macro-economic data base and the corresponding modelling work for ECE member States and the Senior Economic Advisers. In this regard the efforts made by the secretariat to strengthen coordination with other international organizations, in particular OECD, were appreciated.

52. The activities of the Joint Working Group on Environment and Economics were considered a valuable contribution to the analysis of the interrelationships between economic activity and the environment.

53. Workshops were seen as an effective method of work to foster cooperation among member States and assist economies in transition provided that these workshops were well prepared, oriented towards practical issues and organized so as to facilitate dialogue between participants. Some concern was expressed regarding the limited availability of the results of workshops to interested Governments. The results of workshops should be disseminated more widely to increase their impact.

54. The delegation of the Russian Federation proposed that a comprehensive study on privatization in the countries in transition be undertaken and that special attention be given to legislative aspects and the evaluation of the effectiveness of the methods used. It also proposed that the Senior Economic Advisers discuss ways of improving assistance to economies in transition using as a basis the activities described in document E/ECE/1254. Reference was made to the speed with which the Senior Economic Advisers analysed the impact of the Gulf crisis on the economies of the ECE region in the light of Security Council resolution 661.

55. The Commission endorsed the report of the Senior Economic Advisers, including their programme of work and the revised terms of reference.

Committee on Agriculture

Documentation: ECE/AGRI/118

56. Delegations expressed their satisfacation with the Committee's activities. Particular interest was shown in activities relating to the standardization of perishable produce, relations between agriculture and the environment, and food and agricultural statistics. However, the delegation of Portugal, speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, suggested that the market studies should look into prospects rather than analyse past trends.

57. The representatives of the countries in transition, observing that agriculture was often a national priority in those countries, stressed the Committee's essential role as a regional

forum. The value of concrete activities, such as the forthcoming workshops on the transformation of collective farms into viable market-oriented units and agricultural censuses in transition countries, was emphasized.

58. Some delegations felt that the organization of the Committee's work could be further improved so that the time available during sessions was devoted more to substantive discussion and less to procedural matters.

59. Delegations noted that the division of tasks between the Committee and FAO had been successfully implemented. They emphasized the value of strengthening cooperation with FAO, particularly with regard to activities to assist the economies in transition. In addition, delegations were given information about the forthcoming FAO Regional Conference for Europe, which was to be held in cooperation with ECE (Prague, CSFR, August 1992).

60. The delegation of Belarus, referring to the consequences for agriculture of the Chernobyl accident, reiterated its intention to organize a workshop on that topic under the auspices of the Committee.

61. The Commission endorsed the Committee's report, including its programme of work and ranking of priorities. It accepted the terms of reference of the Committee's two new Working Parties. The Commission decided that the Committee would continue to meet annually.

Timber Committee

Documentation: ECE/TIM/59

62. Delegations expressed their appreciation of the Committee's activities and those of its subsidiary bodies. Many delegations considered the programme of work to be topical and to reflect their major interests. Some countries pointed out their particular interest in the work related to the Fifth Study on European Timber Trends and Prospects (ETTS V). Several expressed satisfaction with the inclusion of assistance to countries in transition as a separate programme area. The delegations of the Russian Federation and of Belarus welcomed the decision to undertake work on problems related to the effect of radiation on forests. One delegation expressed its particular interest in the large-area operational experiment on forest damage monitoring by satellite sensing, which was being undertaken jointly with the FAO European Forestry Commission and UNEP-GRID.

63. A number of delegations from central and east European countries pointed out the Committee's continuing importance as a forum for exchange of information, cooperation in the field of statistics related to the forest and forest products sector, forest technology, forest management, privatization and conservation of forests and training as well as on problems related to environmental impacts on the sector. The delegation of the CSFR drew attention to a study tour and workshop which it would host in May 1992 on the theme of forest regeneration in areas exposed to air pollution. The delegation of Romania confirmed its offer to host a seminar on forest roads and wood raw material transport in 1993; and the delegation of the Russian Federation confirmed its offer to host a seminar on multipurpose forest machinery also in 1993 (postponed from 1992).

64. The Commission endorsed the report of the Committee including its programme of work, ranking of priorities and its terms of reference. It approved the proposal of the Committee that the Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics should meet at 2-year intervals with five formal half-day sessions.

Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems

Documentation: ECE/ENVWA/24 and Add.1, E/ECE/1260

65. This item was considered in conjunction with item 4(c) - Cooperation in the field of environment and sustainable development. (For the decision adopted on this item, see para. 187 below.)

66. Delegations expressed appreciation of the work accomplished and the results achieved in the field of environment and water during the past year. It was emphasized that the role of the Senior Advisers as a forum for the development and implementation of pan-European legally binding instruments for environmental protection had become fully recognized in the region.

67. Delegations welcomed the adoption of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and the accompanying decision B(5) and the signature of the two Conventions by 22 and 23 countries, respectively, and the European Community in Helsinki. Many delegations noted with satisfaction that the adoption and subsequent signature of these Conventions was a direct outcome of the Sofia CSCE Meeting on the Protection of the Environment. Some delegations expressed the hope that the on-going Helsinki CSCE Follow-up Meeting would provide an impetus to the environmental activities of ECE.

68. Continued support was expressed for the work on implementing the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, pending its entry into force as well as the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution. Many delegations stressed the importance of the adoption of the Protocol on Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) and the preparation of the Protocol on further reductions of emissions of sulphur compounds.

69. The delegation of Portugal, speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, stressed that the ECE should place even greater emphasis on the effective implementation and monitoring of compliance with the existing commitments.

70. Many delegations stressed the need for more support to be given to countries with economies in transition in order to implement the environmental conventions elaborated or under way within the ECE as well as to integrate environmental considerations at the earliest possible stage in the process of economic reform. Some delegations emphasized that more efforts should be made to promote the exchange of information on best available technologies and best environmental practices. The usefulness of workshops on aspects of environmental management in countries with economies in transition was underlined by several delegations.

71. Delegations welcomed steps taken to contribute to the preparations for the Conference on Environment for Europe to be held in Switzerland in winter 1992/93. Some delegations stressed that implications for the ECE region of the UNCED should be fully taken into account in the preparations for this Conference.

72. Several delegations commended the measures taken to strengthen cooperation with OECD in the field of economics and environment, preparation of environmental performance reviews and management of hazardous chemicals.

73. A number of delegations welcomed the cooperative activities with the European Community in the preparation of the State-of-the-Environment Report for Europe and the Environmental Programme for the Danube Basin.

74. The delegation of the Russian Federation and Ukraine expressed concern over the multiplicity of new environmental initiatives within other international organizations leading to duplication of and overlapping with the work carried out by the Senior Advisers. These delegations proposed that the ECE's role as a major coordinating body in Europe in the field of environment should be strengthened.

75. The same delegations welcomed the decision to undertake work on integrated pollution control which should cover, inter alia, the prevention and control of accidents including nuclear accidents, in particular at the Chernobyl power plant.

76. Some delegations expressed their support for the proposal by the delegation of Canada to develop a strategic framework for the Senior Advisers which could serve as a tool for the continuous adjustment of their work programme to changing conditions in the region.

77. Some delegations voiced the need to strengthen the secretariat in this priority area of the Commission's work.

78. The Commission endorsed the report of the Senior Advisers, including the programme of work.

Committee on Human Settlements

Documentation: ECE/HBP/83

79. Delegations expressed appreciation of the work accomplished by the Committee and indicated their continuing interest in its activities. General satisfaction was expressed regarding the Committee's efforts to streamline its programme of work and identify clear priorities. The Committee was encouraged to take a decision, at its fifty-third session, on its methods and programme of work, as well as on its terms of reference, taking into account decision O (45) and the need to respond in the most flexible, efficient and prompt way to the present challenges. The delegation of Belgium, speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, endorsed the emphasis given by the Committee to the important topics of sustainable development and aid for countries in transition.

80. Many delegations indicated the need to provide additional support for the activities related to the transition process, including the workshops already held which were of practical value. It was also suggested that the Committee elaborate a method to evaluate workshops.

81. The usefulness of the draft Housing Policy Guidelines for the preparation of new housing legislation in countries in transition was mentioned and the Committee was encouraged to continue its work on the preparation of a housing Charter. The delegation of the Russian Federation proposed that a special Trust Fund be set up jointly with the World Bank. It was also suggested that the Committee consider participation in the implementation of actions identified in the Résumé of the Conference of Ministers of Building of the countries of central, eastern and south-eastern Europe held in Hanover (Germany) in February 1992. It was further proposed that the Committee cooperate with the Shelter Working Group as a follow-up to the Coordinating Conference on Assistance to the New Independent States, held in Washington in January 1992. The importance of coordination of work with HABITAT on transition problems was stressed.

82. The view was expressed that work on the ECE Strategy for Sustainable Development of Human Settlements and its practical aspects should be continued. Reference was made to the workshop on this topic to be held in Sweden in May 1992, as well as to a Seminar on Building Pathology in Prague (CSFR), at the end of 1992. Some delegations expressed interest in the work on human settlements policies in southern Europe. The delegation of Belarus noted with satisfaction the quick response of the Committee to the Chernobyl problem and called for further assistance on this question.

83. One delegation suggested that the Committee consider the issue of all-European regional planning. It further suggested that the Committee should include in its programme of work a project on the development of human settlements in rural areas, and expressed its willingness to organize a workshop on this subject in 1992 or 1993.

84. The Commission endorsed the report of the Committee, including the programme of work.

Commmittee on the Development of Trade

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/178

85. Many delegations expressed satisfaction with the activities of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies which were considered to be practical and useful for the countries of the region. Some delegations described the new regulations adopted in their respective countries concerning the liberalization of foreign trade and raised the question of the access of their products to the markets of the industrialized countries.

86. A number of delegations exphasized the significance of the Committee's work in the field of foreign direct investment and expressed appreciation of the study on the topic prepared by the secretariat. It was suggested that future work on this question should deal, concurrently with the obstacles to capital flows, with the factors and methods that contribute to their development.

87. The work of the Working Party on International Contract Practices in Industry was viewed favourably. The publication of the Guide on Legal Aspects of Privatization in Industry was well received. It was suggested that the next guide should also offer recommendations on the subject drawing on past experience.

88. Some delegations voiced appreciation of the workshops organized in 1991 and expressed the wish that others be organized. Negotiations were under way concerning the organization of a seminar or workshop on the promotion of foreign direct investment.

89. A suggestion was made to the secretariat that it should work closely with the other international and intergovernmental, especially European, organizations, on the question of aid to economies in transition, in order to enhance the effectiveness of that aid.

90. A number of delegations indicated their interest in the Committee's work on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and the improvement of the conditions for their participation in interregional trade.

91. Other delegations reiterated their intention to undertake a thorough review of the Committee's programme of work at its next session, in the light of the revised terms of reference with a view to its simplification and updating and the setting of an order of priorities in its activities. The Committee's agenda should respect that priority ranking, after the general debate.

92. The organization of a round table, at the previous session of the Committee, on the problems and prospects of trade, payments and investment among the economies in transition was appreciated. A number of delegations were of the opinion that the experiment was worth repeating and should be given more publicity sufficiently in advance.

93. The Commission endorsed the report of the Committee, including its programme of work, its revised terms of reference and the proposal to convene, exceptionally, a session of the Working Party on International Contract Practices in Industry in Geneva, from 29 June to 1 July 1992, provided that the official participation of countries in transition can be assured.

Committee on Energy

Documentation: ECE/ENERGY/18

94. Delegations considered cooperation in the field of energy to be of vital importance, particularly for economies in transition. Several delegations called for enhanced efforts to facilitate the introduction of market-oriented, efficient energy systems, including through a greater involvement of the private sector.

95. The present and planned activities of the Committee were considered topical and balanced. The project "Energy Efficiency 2000" was noted as being of particular interest. Other activities received support, such as the studies on sustainable energy developments in Europe and North America, on Energy Reforms in Central and Eastern Europe - the First Year, on the rational use of energy and electricity, on safety in coal mines, on interconnection of gas and electric power networks, on environmentally-sound combustion, on renewable sources of energy and energy trade, as well as statistics and forecasts. Among the initiatives under consideration, energy efficient demonstration zones received specific support. The delegation of Portugal, speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, emphasized the need for efficient coordination between the energy and environment divisions, as well as for the sustainable development approach.

96. Delegations welcomed progress towards a more effective coordination of the work programmes of the new Working Parties on Coal, Gas and Electric Power. Cooperation should be enhanced with the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems. Delegations encouraged further cooperation with OECD/IEA, IAEA, the European Community and with major international organizations working in the field of energy. They welcomed the decision of the Committee to contribute to the implementation of the European Energy Charter.

97. Delegations noted difficulties that had arisen as a result of the reduction of services for meetings at the expert level in accordance with decision O (45). They recommended that more satisfactory conditions be granted by providing services for four half-days instead of two.

98. Several delegations noted, or voiced concern over, staffing problems affecting the energy programme. Others were opposed to adding resources to this area at this time despite its importance: the delegation of the United States suggested that needs in priority areas should be met first, in accordance with decision O (45), before considering additional resources for the energy programme.

99. The Commission endorsed the report of the Committee, including its programme of work, priorities and revised terms of reference.

Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Science and Technology

Documentation: ECE/SC.TECH/42

100. The delegation of the Russian Federation spoke in favour of further developing the work programme of the Senior Advisers and expressed interest in the exchange of information on the organization and management of science under market conditions as well as on legislation affecting science and technology and the commercialization of the results of R & D.

101. This delegation considered that the workshop to be held in Poland in June 1992, should elaborate proposals for a series of workshops on specific problems facing the economies in transition.

102. The same delegation suggested that the Senior Advisers undertake, as a new area of activity, activities relating to the problems of conversion of the military/defence industries. This delegation also referred to the proposal it had made to the Senior Advisers on the compilation of a compendium on laws and other legal instruments regulating R & D activities at the national and subregional level in ECE member countries.

103. The Commission endorsed the report of the Senior Advisers, including their programme of work and revised terms of reference.

Inland Transport Committee

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/94 and Add.1, E/ECE/1261.

104. This item was considered together with item 4(d) - Cooperation in the field of transport. (For the decision adopted on this item, see para. 189 below.)

105. The importance of effective international cooperation and coordination in the field of transport between countries in the ECE region was stressed, particularly in view of the integration and transition processes taking place in Europe. Delegations approved the activities carried out by the Committee and welcomed the initiatives undertaken to translate the provisions of the Prague Declaration, adopted by the Pan-European Transport Conference (29-31 October 1991), into concrete action to be undertaken within the framework of the Committee's programme of work.

106. In particular, delegations felt that the Committee should contribute actively to the development of an integrated all-European transport concept, in close cooperation with other competent international institutions and organizations, such as the European Community and the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT).

107. Continued support was expressed for the activities of the Committee in the preparation and administration of a large number of existing international transport agreements and recommendations, particularly regarding infrastructure, such as the AGR, AGC and AGTC Agreements. It was felt that these Agreements already provided, to some extent, a coherent framework for the development of an all-European transport system. Accordingly the importance of preparing a study on the establishment of a network of European inland waterways of international importance through the elaboration of an appropriate draft Agreement (AGN) was underlined.

108. Support was also expressed for the Trans-European North-South road and railway (TEM and TER) projects executed by the ECE.

109. The decision of the Committee to revise its programme of work in line with decision O (45) and to complement its existing priority areas of work on vehicle construction, road traffic safety and transport of dangerous goods by the work on infrastructures and combined transport was welcomed by many delegations.

110. Particular support was voiced for work on the revision of the 1958 Agreement concerning the Adoption of Uniform Conditions of Approval and Reciprocal Recognition of Approval for Motor Vehicle Equipment and Parts with the aim of enlarging its geographical scope to the global level and of implementing its provisions more rapidly.

111. Concern was expressed by some delegations about a lack of progress in the field of inland water transport with regard to certain infrastructure projects and regulations, such as on the transport of dangerous goods, particularly in view of the imminent opening of the canal between the Main and the Danube rivers.

112. The role of rail, inland water and, in particular, combined transport for a safe and environmentally sound transport system was stressed and the activities in this field were welcomed. Noting that 18 countries had already signed the AGTC Agreement on Combined Transport, the hope was expressed that this Agreement would come into force in the near future. Delegations also welcomed in this context the convening of a global Seminar on the Impact of Increasing Dimensions of Loading Units (Containers) in Combined Transport to be held in September 1992.

113. The importance of reliable and internationally harmonized data on transport phenomena to allow rational policy decisions was also stressed, and the initiatives taken to streamline and harmonize international data collection and publication, in cooperation with EUROSTAT and ECMT, were appreciated.

114. Many delegations noted with satisfaction the work undertaken to assist countries in transition through the convening of workshops and the preparation of guides, but felt that technical assistance for countries in transition might be intensified.

115. The Commission endorsed the report of the Committee, including its programme of work.

Conference of European Statisticians

Documentation: ECE/CES/38

116. Many delegations expressed their satisfaction with the work done by the Conference over the past year with regard to the implementation of decision O (45). The importance of the Conference as a unique statistical forum of all the countries of the ECE region and, indeed, its interest for countries outside the region were stressed. The programme of work was considered well-balanced and responded to the needs of the member countries.

117. The central role of the Conference in coordinating regional statistical activities was stressed by many delegations. In this context, the work in the area of statistical information management systems, data banks and means for electronic data interchange was of particular importance. There was support for the ECE/UNDP Statistical Computing Project, the implementation of which could help transition countries to modernize their statistical systems to meet the requirements of a market economy. The delegation of Portugal, speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, supported the setting up of the Joint Programme Review, which was an important step in improving the coordination of work among the institutions concerned and essential for an efficient use of the resources available for international statistical cooperation. This delegation also provided information on the evolving European Statistical System within the European Economic Area.

118. The activities of the Conference to assist countries in transition to develop statistical systems corresponding to the new social and economic realities in the region were highly appreciated. This work was greatly facilitated by the "Steering Document" and the Newsletters on Transition Projects complemented by the EUROSTAT database for technical assistance projects. The hope was expressed that the workshop on the evaluation of results of transition processes (end 1992 in Romania) would help to shape future policies regarding statistical assistance to transition countries. Additional demand for technical assistance may arise following the increase in the membership of the Conference. In this context it was noted that it was essential that ECE together with the major international institutions liaise effectively in order to serve efficiently their constituent member States.

119. Several delegations underlined the importance of the work on environment statistics. One delegation pointed out that the recent political changes presented new opportunities for closer cooperation in environment statistics among the Baltic countries, and the proposal for a Baltic

Geographical Information System implying the extension of the CORINE programme of the European Community to the Baltic basin was welcomed. Also appreciated was the role assumed by the ECE secretariat in data collection for the preparation of the report on the pan-European environment which it was hoped would enhance coordination of data collection in a lasting manner.

120. The Chairman of the Conference informed the Commission that a detailed report evaluating the statistical publication system and the data dissemination policy of the Commission had been prepared by a working group set up by the Conference for the purpose. Its draft report had been discussed by the Bureau of the Conference and proposals regarding the elimination of redundant publications and other changes in publication and data dissemination policy would be submitted to the Conference at its 1992 plenary session.

121. Finally, deep concern was expressed concerning the staff resource situation in this priority area of the ECE: several posts in the Statistical Division were vacant and the post of Director had been vacant for several months. Delegations urged that every effort be made to fill these posts as quickly as possible.

122. The Commission endorsed the report of the Conference, including its programme of work.

123. At its eighth meeting, the Commission adopted its decision C (47) on the fundamental principles of official statistics in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe (for the text see Chapter IV).

Working Party on the Chemical Industry

Documentation: ECE/CHEM/83

124. A number of delegations expressed their appreciation and support for the activities carried out by the Working Party. They noted that the programme of work complied with the priorities and general guidelines set out in decision O (45). The delegations of Hungary, Poland, Romania and the Russian Federation welcomed those activities aimed at assisting countries of central and eastern Europe in the process of industrial restructuring.

125. The delegation of Romania announced the postponement of the workshop on rational use of raw materials and energy in the chemical industry, originally scheduled for 13-18 September 1992, until June 1993.

126. Concerning all the activities in the industry sector, the delegation of Portugal, speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, stressed the need for the secretariat and the subsidiary bodies concerned to ensure the full implementation of decision O (45) and its guidelines in the further development of the programmes of work.

127. Many delegations noted with satisfaction the success of the High-Level Meeting on Cooperation and Sustainable Development in the Chemical Industry (Warsaw, Poland, 10-12 March 1992) and expressed appreciation to the Government of Poland for having hosted the event and to the Commission of the European Communities and the Government of Norway for having provided financial support. The delegation of Poland recorded its appreciation for the support mentioned above, as well as that received from some business representatives. The delegations of Hungary, Poland and the Russian Federation suggested that the Conclusions of the High-Level Meeting should be transmitted to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The delegation of Switzerland suggested that the Commission should take note of the Conclusions, request the Working Party on the Chemical Industry to consider them at its next session, and transmit a document to UNCED as the Conclusions of the High-Level Meeting.

128. The delegation of Poland reaffirmed the proposal it had made at the High-Level Meeting to host in Warsaw an international environmental management centre for the chemical industry. This proposal was supported by the delegation of the Russian Federation.

129. Delegations voiced the need further to develop cooperation with the Commission of the European Communities, the European Chemical Industry Council, and other organizations, which had proved useful in the organization of the High-Level Meeting.

130. Some delegations expressed the view that the fundamental social and political changes taking place in the ECE region would provide the Working Party with new challenges and would strengthen its role in the dialogue between Governments and industry. The delegation of Portugal reiterated the need to adapt and streamline the Working Party's future programme of work to implement fully decision O (45) and to avoid duplication of work with existing programmes.

131. The Commission endorsed the report of the Working Party, including its programme of work and its revised terms of reference. The Commission decided to present the Conclusions of the High-Level Meeting to UNCED as a document.

Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation

132. The Chairman of the Working Party reported on the work which had been undertaken in the past year.

133. Delegations from the economies in transition welcomed the preparations for seminars on environment-related topics as well as the results of the workshops on rehabilitation engineering. Support was expressed for the work on the development of internationally comparable statistics and the close cooperation which had been established with OECD in this respect as well as for the Annual Review and the study on the Medium- and Long-Term Trends and Prospects in Engineering Industries and Automation.

134. These delegations drew attention to the enormous problems faced by the engineering industries in their countries and indicated that there was urgent need for more support from the west and assistance from the ECE secretariat in restructuring and privatizing their engineering industries, in particular small and medium-sized manufacturing establishments. They considered that the practical implementation of decision O (45) had narrowed the possibilities of ECE to pay due attention to the problems faced by the economies in transition in restructuring their industrial base. The delegation of Bulgaria stated that sponsors were needed for the organization of workshops. The delegation of Hungary, which noted that the largest foreign direct investment in its country was in the engineering sector, expressed its readiness to organize a seminar on industrial automation in April 1994.

Working Party on Standardization Policies

Documentation: ECE/STAND/34

135. Delegations which spoke commended the work carried out by the Working Party and one noted that it was the only forum in which international standardization issues and other related activities were addressed by the governmental and non-governmental bodies concerned. The ECE Standardization List, the third revised version of which would be before the second session of the Working Party (12-14 May 1992), was a useful tool for achieving effective coordination.

136. The Commission endorsed the report of the Working Party, including its programme of work.

Working Party on Steel

Documentation: ECE/STEEL/76

137. A number of delegations of countries in transition expressed satisfaction with the activities of the Working Party. They considered its programme of work well balanced and in line with the priorities defined in decision O (45). The delegation of Portugal, speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, welcomed the Executive Secretary's letter to heads of delegations requesting that new proposals for the future programme of work cover at least one of the priority areas identified by the Commission and that the Working Party adjust its programme of work in accordance with decision O (45).

138. The delegations of some countries in transition commended the practical approach taken in addressing issues of concern to both the steel industry and the countries in transition. They underlined the importance of the Working Party as a unique forum for promoting multilateral cooperation between steel-producing countries. They also underlined the importance of the programme "Metallurgy and Ecology".

139. The same delegations expressed interest in the organization of annual seminars, workshops and study tours. They underlined the usefulness of seminars and workshops organized in cooperation with concerned industrial sectors, such as the Workshop on the Restructuring of the Steel Industry of Romania (Tirgoviste, February 1992).

140. The Working Party was invited to contribute to easing the painful adjustments which were having to be made by the steel industries in some countries of the region during the transition period and to improve the exchange of information between these countries.

141 The Commission endorsed the report of the Working Party, including its programme of work and its revised terms of reference.

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Cooperation and coordination of activities with other international organizations and institutions
(agenda item 2(d))

Documentation: E/ECE/1255

142. Delegations noted with appreciation the ECE's continued and strengthened cooperation with the European Community, OECD and with other international organizations. In view of the continuing changes in the region it was felt that the Commission should intensify its cooperation with these institutions and international organizations, particularly on activities designed to assist countries in transition and to integrate their economies with the European and global economy. A number of delegations stressed that the Commission should now strive for a more clearly defined division of labour between its activities and those of other international organizations and institutions.

143. The delegation of Portugal, speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, supported by another delegation, suggested that it would be beneficial to examine how the ECE could contribute in the implementation of certain aspects of the assistance coordinated by the Group of 24.

144. Several delegations indicated the importance they attached to efforts aimed at strengthening statistical cooperation in the region between the ECE, OECD and EUROSTAT.

145. Reference was made to cooperation between the ECE and the UNDP on operational projects, in particular the collaboration in the past on the Trans-European Motorway (TEM) and ongoing cooperation on the Trans-European Railway (TER) Projects executed by ECE. Stress was also laid on cooperation with UNCTAD on the interregional EDIFACT Project.

146. The representative of the FAO stated that his organization attached great importance to its cooperation with ECE in the fields of agriculture and timber. It considered the need for support for the countries in transition of central and eastern Europe and the countries developing from an economic point of view as being of special importance. The FAO would give careful consideration to the request that two recently established ECE Working Parties should be joint ECE/FAO bodies; and it underlined the need for timely inter-agency consultation on such questions as changes in programmes, structures and priorities that may affect both organizations.

147. Several delegations considered that the ECE and the other regional commissions should harmonize their activities with those of the newly constituted Department of Economic and Social Development as proposed by the Secretary-General in his report to the General Assembly on the restructuring of the secretariat (A/46/882).

148. One delegation pointed out that close cooperation and coordination between international organizations was necessary to meet the most urgent needs of the countries in transition. It stated that under the conditions of restructuring the United Nations Secretariat and zero-growth approach to the regular budget the resources to support the ECE could be found through the redeployment of funds among United Nations units and through the savings gained from the elimination of some of them. This would respond to the increase in the ECE membership and would be in line with the relevant resolution of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

149. One delegation, noting the support given to increased involvement by NGOs at the Espoo Ministerial Meeting, hoped that ECE's relevant bodies would foster such participation and cooperation with the NGO community.

Commission's activities designed to assist countries of the region in transition to a market economy and their integration with the European and global economy

(agenda item 2(e))

Documentation: E/ECE/1254

150. Delegations noted that the transition process had proved more painful and complex than originally expected, and emphasized the need for additional international financial and technical assistance. It was recognized that both bilateral and multilateral initiatives were needed to secure the success of the reforms and mitigate the hardships experienced by the countries in transition, as well as to promote their integration into the European and global economy. Delegations stressed that these efforts should be undertaken in a cooperative and coordinated manner within the framework of international organizations and institutions as well as at the bilateral level.

151. Several delegations focused on the dilemmas facing the reforming countries. One delegation was of the opinion that, to a large extent, the economic decline in the former Soviet Union could be traced to its failure to implement recommendations made in a 1990 study carried out by the international financial institutions, and that financial, technical and other forms of assistance could not be effective without the necessary market-oriented reform framework. It therefore felt that it was imperative that the reforming countries cooperate among themselves and refrain from implementing economic measures, such as uncoordinated monetary reforms, which complicated the transition process. Delegations expressed the view that progress in the countries in transition in improving their own trade regimes should be matched by trade policy and structural adjustment

measures in other ECE member countries to reduce trade barriers. To this end, the importance of a successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations was stressed, as well as the urgency for the countries in transition to become members of the Bretton Woods Institutions.

152. One delegation pointed out that as the transformation process was complex, and given the fact that the needs of the reforming countries varied, it was perhaps counter-productive to attempt to draw up uniform policy guidelines beyond the initial phase of macro-economic stabilization. It noted that external resources were indispensable and that private investment would play the key role. It further stressed that high priority should be accorded to technical assistance, especially in support of institution building. Another delegation drew attention to the need to assist the countries in transition to solve their environmental problems, and another attached importance to the development of the service sector and small and medium-sized enterprises in the countries in transition.

153. Delegations representing countries in transition provided information on the economic, political and social developments in their countries and prospects for the future. They also discussed policy problems pertaining to their transition to market-oriented economies. They described legislative, economic reform and restructuring measures which they had taken to further the process of transition to a market economy. Particular mention was made of new legal frameworks for foreign investment, privatization, stabilization of currencies, industry and finance, and agrarian reforms. These delegations expressed the wish to participate as fully as possible in such institutions as the European Community, OECD, the Council of Europe, IMF and the World Bank, as well as the ECE. They expressed their gratitude for the financial and technical assistance that was being extended to them by other Governments and international organizations and institutions, and stated their intention to cooperate actively on both subregional and multilateral levels in fields of common interest.

154. The delegation of Portugal, speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, and the representative of the Commission of the European Communities outlined the Community's activities designed to overcome the serious adjustment problems resulting from the transition process. Particular mention was made of new association agreements negotiated with the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, Hungary and Poland designed to improve market access, and the negotiations about to begin with Romania and Bulgaria for similar agreements. Trade and economic cooperation agreements were also being negotiated with Albania and the Baltic States. Reference was also made to the PHARE assistance programme and the role played by the Commission of the European Communities in coordinating assistance by western countries within the framework of the Group of 24. The Community was also funding technical assistance programmes, food credits and emergency aid to the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and was holding exploratory talks on new agreements involving removal of obstacles to trade and establishment of a political dialogue. Intensive preparations were under way in the Community for the Lisbon Conference which would aim for better coordination of short-term assistance to respond to the urgent needs of the countries in transition.

155. Many delegations highlighted the recent Washington Coordination Conference and a major multilateral package of assistance for the Russian Federation and other new states of the CIS, including a stabilization fund for the rouble, launched recently by the United States, the G-7 and other countries. The United States delegation drew attention to the Freedom Support Act of 1992 which would provide an additional $1.1 billion in humanitarian aid to meet basic human needs and additional technical assistance for economies in transition. The delegation of Finland reported on the main findings of a Conference on Transformation from a System of Central Planning to a Market Economy, held in the framework of the CSCE in Helsinki in February 1992. It expressed the hope that other Governments and multilateral organizations, including the ECE, would take the initiative to convene similar meetings on a regular basis. The delegation of Turkey referred to its experience in launching reforms for structural change towards a liberal economy which it suggested had much to offer to the economies in transition.

156. Many delegations agreed that the ECE should play an important role in assisting the countries in transition. Appreciation was expressed for the analytical work and research undertaken by the ECE relating to the problems facing the countries in transition. Appreciation was also expressed for the workshops which had been held and for other activities designed to assist countries in transition. One delegation felt that the workshops should be periodically evaluated in order to assess their results in the light of the respective needs of the countries in transition and in order to avoid unnecessary duplication.

157. Several delegations expressed their gratitude for the financial support for workshops provided by the European Community, the Government of Canada and other Governments. These delegations suggested that greater participation of experts be promoted and new ways of financing be found, including the establishment of a Trust Fund for this purpose. One delegation expressed doubts as to the advisability of such a facility, noting that the ECE could remain a relevant forum without reaching into the field of technical assistance. A few delegations attached importance to the Commission's potential in providing advisory services, and exchange of experience in training specialists in the field of privatization and supported the proposal to launch a Second European Recovery Programme. A number of delegations stressed the need for the ECE to assist countries in transition in strengthening environmental management. The Czechoslovak delegation proposed to organize and host a workshop on exchange of views and spreading out of the experience from the transitional period.

158. At its eighth meeting, the Commission adopted its decision D (47) on the work of the Commission concerning economies in transition in eastern and central Europe (for the text see Chapter IV).

Commission's contribution to the United Nations programmes designed to assist countries of the region which are developing from the economic point of view and developing countries from other regions
(agenda item 2(f))

Documentation: E/ECE/1256

159. Some delegations observed that the gap between the highly industrialized countries in the region and those in transition and developing from an economic point of view had widened due to the current unstable economic situation. Several delegations remarked that the ECE had significantly contributed to the promotion of economic relations and to increasing economic cooperation among all countries in the region. Several delegations emphasized the need for coordinated programmes of assistance for all countries of the European region.

160. The ECE workshop programme and other activities had been beneficial for countries at different levels of development. For decades to come a number of countries would require this type of expertise with specific needs and different priorities. This was particularly important in view of the new ECE member countries. One delegation urged that the difficulties of the new member countries should not be neglected, particularly in formulating binding legal regulations. Many countries in transition were not yet in a position to sign new conventions and protocols, and could not adhere to the increasing number of recommendations in the field of the environment.

161. Delegations expressed the view that a considerable part of the ECE's activities were of relevance for developing countries in other regions and called for the strengthening and harmonization of such activities with those of the other regional commissions. The UN/ECE EDIFACT Project and ECE's operational projects financed by UNDP were welcomed and it was noted that these projects had a global application. A number of delegations provided information on their efforts to assist countries within the region and beyond. One delegation felt that it should be borne in mind that the economic recovery, followed by dynamic growth in central and eastern Europe and the CIS, would eventually benefit the developed countries.

Resolutions bearing on the work of the Commission adopted by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly

(agenda item 2(g))

Documentation: E/ECE/1257

162. The delegation of Israel expressed its pleasure in participating for the first time as a new member of the ECE pursuant to Council decision 1991/72. It expressed thanks for the warm welcome extended to its country, the manifold assistance offered at the initial stage of its entry into the ECE and its readiness to contribute to the work of the Commission by accepting the responsibilities inherent in full membership.

163. Underlining the importance they attached to the Commission's activities in the field of sustainable development, several delegations recorded their appreciation of the ECE's contribution to the preparatory process for UNCED and called on the Commission to review and follow up the conclusions of the Bergen and UNCED Conferences in accordance with Assembly resolution 46/168.

164. Three delegations extended their gratitude to all Governments, institutions and individuals who had provided assistance in accordance with the provisions of Assembly resolution 46/150 on the Strengthening of International Cooperation and Coordination of the Efforts to Study, Mitigate and Minimize the Consequences of the Chernobyl Disaster. Attention was drawn to the fact that in the future practical measures would need to be taken to overcome existing difficulties, inter alia in the areas of health and technical assistance. New initiatives to address and mitigate the consequences of the disaster were described and ECE and other institutions, social and business groups were invited to assist in these efforts.

165. Expressing their conviction that the Commission should strengthen its activities in the field of energy efficiency, a number of delegations felt that the ECE could be instrumental in the implementation of Council decision 1991/89 on Development and Efficient Use of Energy Resources.

166. Recalling Assembly resolution 3534 (XXX) on Presentation of the United Nations Programme Budget, one delegation felt that the Commission should take into account operative paragraph 2 of that resolution when planning its programme budget.

167. Recalling Council decision 1991/76 on the Promotion of Interregional Cooperation in the Area of International Trade Facilitation, several delegations expressed concern that the necessary staff resources had not been provided for the EDIFACT project and looked forward to a rapid solution to this problem.

168. In view of the pressing need for increased international cooperation and assistance to the economies in transition, a number of delegations expressed the view that the activities of the regional commissions should be harmonized and provided with adequate funds to meet the challenges in carrying out tasks in this area. In this context note was taken of Assembly resolution 46/202 on the Impact of the recent evolution of east-west relations on the growth of the world economy, in particular on the economic growth and development of the developing countries, as well as on international economic cooperation.

169. Recalling Council decision 1988/169 on Transport Centres for the Mediterranean Region which provided that United Nations status be conferred on the transport study and training centres for the Mediterranean region, to take effect upon the conclusion of agreements between the United Nations and the respective Governments, one delegation regretted the delay in the implementation of this decision. It urged the Executive Secretary to take all necessary measures to conclude the matter.

Review of the economic situation in Europe
(agenda item 3)

Documentation: Pre-publication text of the Economic Survey of Europe in 1991-1992 and Economic Bulletin for Europe, Vol. 43

170. Delegations reported on economic performance in their countries in 1991 and the prospects for 1992, including policy problems pertaining to the region as a whole.

171. In general, delegations agreed with the assessment of economic developments and prospects in Europe and North America contained in the Survey. Several delegations stressed the great importance of assisting the countries of central and eastern Europe in their move to a market economy system.

172. As regards the western industrial countries, it was pointed out that the economic performance had been disappointing in 1991. In fact, against earlier expectations, there was a general weakening of output growth and several countries remained in or moved into recession. The overall slowdown in output growth was also associated with a significant rise in unemployment, whereas inflationary pressures attenuated in the large majority of countries. Forecasts for 1992 pointed to only weak overall economic growth for the year as a whole, but this masked a more pronounced strengthening of activity projected for the second half of the year. It was, however, acknowledged that forecasts of developments in 1992 were surrounded by more than the usual margin of uncertainty.

173. In assessing economic developments in the transition countries of eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, delegates noted the complexity of the transformation processes, which had proved much more difficult than was originally expected. The changes in the economic system, the introduction of stabilization measures and the collapse of the former CMEA-trade all contributed significantly to the recession in the east. The fall in output accelerated and unemployment rose considerably in 1991.

174. Economic reforms, which were centred upon the liberalization of prices and foreign trade, macroeconomic stabilization and privatization, made substantial, albeit varying, progress in all countries of eastern Europe. So far, the pace of structural change had been slower than desired and large falls in investment were acting as a brake on economic recovery. However, it was stressed that the process of transition to a market economy was not uniform across countries and that there were many country-specific features which needed to be taken into account when analysing the transition.

175. Economic developments in the former USSR had been dominated by the disintegration of the Union. Following the creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States, all responsibility for economic policies moved to the republican level. In 1991, the economic recession deepened and external and internal imbalances worsened as traditional economic links between republics and enterprises were breaking down. Delegates noted the importance of maintaining inter-republican trade in helping to limit the possible fall in economic activity in 1992 in these countries.

176. Delegations underlined the importance of foreign assistance as a means of support for the transition process in the eastern countries. Several delegates outlined programmes under way. Resources committed to the countries in transition were considerable and were reported to have reached $111 billion. Nonetheless, a number of countries, noting their difficult financial situations, drew attention to their aid needs, including for technical assistance, and to the necessity of speeding up the fulfilment of the commitments in foreign assistance.

177. Prospective and recently concluded arrangements which envisaged increased access to western markets for all eastern countries were mentioned, including the association agreements with the EC and free trade agreements with EFTA. Delegates of many transition countries reported on domestic legal and institutional changes intended to attract additional foreign capital.

178. Several delegations expressed the view that the institutional framework already established by the PHARE programme, the G-24 programme and the Washington Conference was sufficient to ensure efficient coordination of international support. Others thought that the idea of a new European Recovery Programme merited further consideration. There was agreement on the importance of improved access to western markets in stimulating economic growth in the east. Some delegations noted that the eastern countries could also benefit from increased cooperation among themselves. A role for the ECE was mentioned as a source of certain types of assistance. One delegation pleaded for an efficient division of labour and better coordination among international organizations in order to avoid unnecessary competition and duplication.

179. Several delegations commented on the present and future contents of the Survey. They commended the secretariat for the thorough and competent analysis of economic developments in the ECE region, notably pertaining to problems faced by the transition economies.

180. Some delegations held the view that the Survey presented an overly pessimistic picture of recent economic developments in countries of central and eastern Europe, and pointed to considerable progress made in these countries in moving towards a market economy system. One delegation pointed out that the Survey should not contain conclusions regarding groups of countries, unless these conclusions were equally valid for each of them. It suggested that the Survey should present country notes on the transition economies, as was the case for the industrialized countries, to allow for a better reflection and appreciation of information and data in their respective national context.

181. Many delegations emphasized the fact that a more comprehensive assessment of the Survey was impeded by its late delivery, but acknowledged the resource constraints faced by the secretariat, as well as the increase in the number of countries, the date on which some statistics were received and the important topics to be covered by the analysis.

Cooperation in the field of economic analysis and assistance to countries in transition
(agenda item 4(a))

Documentation: E/ECE/1258

182. This item was considered in conjunction with item 2(c) - Senior Economic Advisers to ECE Governments (see paragraphs 49 to 55 above).

International cooperation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant
(agenda item 4(b))

Documentation: E/ECE/1259

183. The delegations of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine expressed their gratitude for the measures taken by a number of ECE subsidiary bodies in implementation of decision C (46) to address and mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster and voiced the hope that proposals relating to the disaster could be added to the work programmes of other subsidiary bodies. Mention was also made of the resolution adopted by the European Parliament setting up a programme of medical and technical assistance. These delegations expressed their satisfaction with the inclusion of Chernobyl-related activity in the ECE Medium-Term Plan for 1992-1997.

184. The delegation of Belarus pointed out that the process of economic reform should be viewed against the background of the Chernobyl disaster. Seventy per cent of the damage caused by the accident had occurred in Belarus, where one in five people were affected, and great environmental damage had occurred. The delegation of Ukraine indicated the cost of measures required to mitigate the effects of the accident which in 1992 totalled 70 billion roubles.

185. These delegations expressed their appreciation as well for assistance and support provided by the international community. They called upon the business community and public organizations to contribute to the implementation of the Joint Plan of international assistance, including the "Sarcophagus" competition, to ensure the safety of the Chernobyl plant, for which ECE's potential could also be tapped.

Cooperation in the field of environment and sustainable development

(agenda item 4(c))

Documentation: E/ECE/1260

186. This item was considered in conjunction with item 2(c) - Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems (see paragraphs 65 to 78 above).

187. At its eighth meeting, the Commission adopted its decision E (47) on cooperation in the field of environment and sustainable development (for the text see Chapter IV).

Cooperation in the field of transport

(agenda item 4(d))

Documentation: E/ECE/1261

188. This item was considered in conjunction with item 2(c) - Inland Transport Committee (see paragraphs 104 to 115 above).

189. At its eighth meeting, the Commission adopted its decision F (47) on cooperation in the field of transport (for the text see Chapter IV).

Economic cooperation in the Mediterranean in the light of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe

(agenda item 4(e))

Documentation: E/ECE/1262

190. Delegations speaking on this item underlined the continuing importance they attached to the strengthening of security and economic cooperation in the Mediterranean region in the light of the Final Act of the CSCE and the subsequent CSCE Documents. It was recalled that the Palma de Mallorca meeting had emphasized the important role of ECE in fostering regional and sub-regional multilateral cooperation especially in the fields of environment, transport, statistics and tourism. Delegations expressed confidence that the ECE would incorporate Mediterranean sub-regional issues into its work programme in accordance with the provisions of the relevant CSCE documents.

191. These delegations reiterated the importance they attached to cooperation with Mediterranean countries not members of the ECE, as well as with other regional commissions and international organizations with a view to developing projects of common interest to all Mediterranean countries, promoting economic and social development and enhancing stability in the region.

192. Appreciation was expressed for the ECE projects contained in document E/ECE/1262. One delegation stressed the importance of securing adequate resources to carry out these activities. Emphasis was placed on work in the fields of transport, environment, trade facilitation, in particular EDIFACT, agriculture, timber, human settlements, tourism, standardization of fresh and dried fruit and vegetables, water management and desalination, energy and the use of geothermal and solar resources. One delegation urged that part of the Economic Survey of Europe be devoted to the analysis of development and cooperation in the Mediterranean.

193. Support was expressed for the Meeting of Experts on Human Settlements Problems in Southern Europe held in Ankara (Turkey) in April 1991 and for the Commission's contribution to the preparation of the Meeting on Urban Design and Architecture with Respect to Mediterranean Climate and Sustainable Development to be held in Seville (Spain) in 1992. Attention was also drawn to the study tour and workshop on the Rational Use of Raw Materials and Energy in the Chemical Industry in Romania, planned for Spring 1992, in which Mediterranean countries had been invited to participate.

194. One delegation underlined the significant role of the Mediterranean Transport and Training Centres and recalled the provisions of Council decision 1988/169 on this subject. It expressed its regret at the lack of progress in conferring United Nations status on them and called upon the Executive Secretary to take the necessary measures to conclude this matter.

195. The Executive Secretary was asked to pursue his efforts in facilitating consultations regarding the Mediterranean Technical Assistance Programme (METAP) and the Mediterranean Special Programme of Action (MEDSPA) with a view to strengthening environmental management and development in the region. It was suggested that the Commission also define elements of sustainable development in the Mediterranean region.

196. At its eighth meeting, the Commission adopted its decision G (47) on economic cooperation in the Mediterranean in the light of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (for the text see Chapter IV).

Activities of the Economic Commission for Europe to implement the pertinent provisions of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and other CSCE documents, including the Charter of Paris for a New Europe

(agenda item 5)

Documentation: E/ECE/1263

197. Many delegations underlined that the CSCE process had a vital role to play in the new European architecture and welcomed the fact that the past year had witnessed a significant development in the CSCE process. The Bonn Document and the Paris Charter for a New Europe were the most important steps in this direction. Many delegations referred to the Prague Meeting of the CSCE Council of Foreign Ministers held in January 1992 and welcomed the agreement reached there to create the new Economic Forum within the framework of the Senior Officials' Meetings. The hope was expressed by one delegation that the agreement on negotiation mechanism would be strengthened by an agreement on implementation mechanism.

198. The hope was expressed that the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting currently under way would advance the fundamental changes in the CSCE process begun in Paris and further enhance security and cooperation in the region, promote dialogue on transition problems and give impetus to cooperation of the countries involved. A few delegations felt that the CSCE process should build upon existing mechanisms rather than establish new ones and that the development of this process set up new targets for the ECE. The European Community indicated that its priority areas for

strengthened cooperation in the CSCE process were science and technology, telecommunications, environment, transport, tourism and human resources. Other representatives mentioned in this connection also standardization and transport of dangerous goods. One delegation looked to the CSCE Meeting in Helsinki to formulate environmental policies and guidelines for further work in relevant international fora. It stressed in particular the need for environmental security in the CSCE region and noted that further consideration should be given to the adequacy of the 1986 IAEA Conventions on early notification and assistance in the case of nuclear accidents.

199. It was observed that the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting would also consider the role of the CSCE in the reconstruction of Europe and the relationship between the CSCE and international organizations working in this field, including the ECE.

200. A number of delegations expressed the opinion that the ECE remained an important forum for the multilateral implementation of the relevant provisions emanating from the CSCE Second Basket and expressed their conviction that it would continue to play an important role in the future. In this respect, two delegations noted with satisfaction the Commission's activities as set out in document E/ECE/1263. Many delegations encouraged close cooperation and coordination between the ECE, the European Community and the OECD, and other international organizations involved in the CSCE process in order to avoid duplication of work and to carry out the priorities established at Helsinki.

The future work of the Commission in regard to cooperation in the ECE region, particularly in the light of Commission decision 0 (45)

(agenda item 6)

Documentation: E/ECE/1264 and 1265

201. This item was considered in conjunction with item 7 - Programme of work for 1992-1996 (see paragraphs 220 to 223 below).

202. There was general agreement that the Commission's forty-seventh session provided an opportunity to review and give further impetus to the future implementation of decisions 0 (45) and P (45) and the orientation of activities in the five priority areas of activity, namely environment, transport, statistics, trade facilitation and economic analysis, as well as to consider activities designed to assist countries in transition to a market economy and issues relating to sustainable development. Delegations considered that decision 0 (45) remained a solid foundation for the future work of the Commission. They called for steps to continue to implement the decision and ensure that the necessary staff and financial resources be allocated to the priority areas of activity.

203. Many delegations expressed concern about the implementation of decision 0 (45), in the belief that adequate resources and attention had not been devoted to the priority areas by the secretariat, especially the areas of trade facilitation (EDIFACT), environment and statistics, and urged that the situation be resolved rapidly. In particular delegations voiced criticism of slow recruitment procedures. One delegation remarked that the draft Medium-Term Plan for the period 1992-1997 did not take sufficiently into account the relevant decisions on the future work of the Commission nor put appropriate emphasis on the priority areas. Another delegation questioned the relevance of continuing activities in non-priority areas, such as engineering industries and automation and the chemical industries and suggested that these sectors were diverting resources from more important activities. Other delegations were of the opinion that the definition of five priority areas should not exclude other ECE activities. Interest was expressed in continuing work in the fields of energy, standardization, science and technology, industry, human settlements and agriculture and timber. Some delegations underlined the importance of the development of international cooperation to address and mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster.

204. Delegations stressed the importance of close cooperation with the European Community, the OECD and other international organizations. In addition to the priority areas of activity, there was prevailing opinion that work should focus on support of the ECE countries in transition by means of workshops and other informal meetings. One delegation stressed the need to continue within the ECE the consultations among interested countries and international institutions in order to provide expertise on programmes of transition to a market economy.

205. Many delegations underlined that the restructuring process should continue at all levels within the ECE, through the ongoing process of consultation and ad hoc informal meetings in accordance with decision P (45). With regard to the Commission's work methods, including workshops and other informal meetings, one delegation proposed a regular evaluation procedure based upon the criteria adopted by the Commission. Some delegates recommended a clearer definition of the responsibilities of the Commission taking into account the competing claims of work in priority areas, non-priority areas and assistance to countries in transition.

206. With respect to future work in the field of the environment, several delegations were of the opinion that the ECE should consolidate and expand its activities in elaborating legally binding conventions and protocols. One delegation suggested that future work focus on identifying both short- and long-term strategies in environmental policy and the interrelations with economic needs and instruments.

207. Two delegations laid stress on the promotion of sustainable development, underlining the development and implementation of regional agreements; the strengthening of environmental management in central and eastern Europe; the review and follow-up to the conclusions of the Bergen Conference and the forthcoming UNCED; and increased cooperation with other organizations. Several delegations felt that priority must be given to the effective integration of environmental protection in the economic restructuring process of the transition countries. With this in mind, one delegation expressed its readiness to participate in arrangements to facilitate this goal. One delegation hoped that support would be forthcoming for the creation of an International Environment Management Centre of the Chemical Industry.

208. Another delegation drew attention to the proposal for a Strategic Planning Framework for the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems to introduce greater consistency and organization in the planning process and thanked other delegations for their support in preparing and carrying forward the Strategic Plan.

209. In order to enhance the value of the Commission's economic analysis one delegation suggested that in future the Economic Survey of Europe attempt to deal with the medium-term outlook, including the identification of existing possibilities and the objectives required to reach them.

210. Several delegations felt that the Commission could be instrumental in developing pan-European transport networks. Another delegation stressed that work should continue on the environmental aspects of transport.

211. In the area of trade facilitation many delegations stressed that the future development of UN/EDIFACT depended heavily upon the allocation of sufficient resources.

212. Several delegations voiced their support for future activities in the energy sector as being important for overall European cooperation and in particular for the economies in transition. Suggested areas for future work included sustainable energy development, stable energy supply and energy efficiency technologies.

213. Delegations expressed their conviction that the ECE would continue to adapt to the changing situation in its region and would rise to the new challenges ahead.

Recommendations of the Sessional Committee

214. At its seventh meeting the Commission heard a report by the Chairman of the Sessional Committee on the outcome of its deliberations on the activities of the Principal Subsidiary Bodies and the Working Parties reporting directly to the Commission, on the Commission's programme of work for 1992-1996 and on other items assigned to it by the Plenary for preliminary consideration.

215. The Chairman of the Sessional Committee informed the Commission that the participants had reviewed the activities and programmes of work of the Principal Subsidiary Bodies and Working Parties reporting directly to the Commission, as presented by their respective Chairmen. The discussions had been thorough and constructive, and interesting and comprehensive views on the various agenda items had been presented.

216. Delegates had commented favourably on the work of the ECE secretariat in implementing the programme of work of the different subsidiary bodies.

217. On behalf of the Sessional Committee, the Chairman of the Committee recommended that:

(a) the Commission approve its programme of work for 1992-1993 and endorse in principle, subject to review at its forty-eighth session, its programme of work for 1993-1996;

(b) the Commission approve the reports of the ECE Principal Subsidiary Bodies and Working Parties, including their programmes of work, their revised terms of reference where applicable and their priority rankings as contained in these reports;

(c) the Commission adopt the decision on the fundamental principles and guidelines for official statistics proposed by the Conference of European Statisticians at its thirty-ninth plenary session (ECE/CES/38, para. 74).

218. The Chairman of the Sessional Committee thanked the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, the participants and all those who had contributed to the Committee's work.

219. The Chairman of the Commission expressed to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Sessional Committee and to all representatives who had taken part in the Committee's deliberations, the Commission's appreciation and thanks for the work which they had accomplished.

Programme of work for 1992-1996
(agenda item 7)

Documentation: E/ECE/1265

220. The delegation of Portugal, speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member states, pointed out that for the Community the five priorities agreed on in decision 0 (45) continued to serve as guiding principles. This delegation also stated that in the Medium-Term Plan the order of presentation and sub-programme titles should fully reflect these priorities.

221. The delegation of the Russian Federation recalled the points raised by the Executive Secretary with regard to resources for the implementation of decision 0 (45) and the fact that, owing to the current recruitment freeze, the will expressed in decisions could not always be carried out. The method of horizontal redeployment was only a palliative for this problem and therefore the Secretary-General should be requested to allow exceptions. This delegation suggested that a "breathing space" in the reorganization process was needed; that continuous restructuring simply led to uncertainty and that no-one knew this better than the Russians themselves.

222. The delegation of the United States of America reiterated that resource needs in the five priority areas should first be met before dealing with resource problems of other areas of work.

223. On the recommendation of the Sessional Committee, the Commission adopted its programme of work for 1992-1993 and endorsed in principle, subject to review at its forty-eighth session, its programme of work for 1993-1996 as set out in document E/ECE/1265.

Other business
(agenda item 8)

224. The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that the tentative date for the holding of the forty-eighth session of the Commission in Geneva was 20-28 April 1993. In proposing these dates he explained that they respected the established ECE practice of convening the session to avoid as far as possible the holidays of Easter and May Day. The Commission decided to leave to the Executive Secretary the responsibility for determining, in consultation with the Officers of the Commission and in the light of the relevant arrangements of ECOSOC and the General Assembly, the precise dates of the forty-eighth session, and requested the Executive Secretary to inform the Governments thereon.

225. Pursuant to Council resolution 1894 (LVII) the Executive Secretary informed the Commission that the provisional agenda for the forty-eighth session, which would be prepared in consultation with the Officers of the Commission, would be along the same basic lines as this year's agenda. He referred however to the difficulties involved in foreseeing what would happen in the coming months in view of the rapid changes under way in the region. He pointed out that in line with established practice of discussing the proposed draft agenda with the Bureau, and the newly established round of ad hoc Informal Meetings of the Commission during the year, there was every opportunity for the fullest discussion of the agenda both prior to and at the customary December Bureau Meeting. Thus, the members of the Commission would be informed of and involved in the shaping of the agenda in good time.

Adoption of decisions

226. At its eighth meeting the Commission adopted seven decisions, the full texts of which are contained in Chapter IV.

227. On this occasion, the Executive Secretary informed the Commission that at its Resumed Session on 13 April 1992, the General Assembly had adopted resolution 46/235 on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields. He referred in particular to operative paragraph 6 of that resolution which stated that the regional commissions should be enabled fully to play their role and that their effectiveness should be strengthened, and requested the commissions to provide recommendations for consideration by the Assembly at its forty-seventh session. Since the resolution had been adopted too late for the Commission to consider it at its current session, he suggested that delegations might wish to decide that the matter be considered at the next ad hoc Informal Meeting in order that recommendations could be submitted to the Assembly in time for its forty-seventh session in September 1992. The Commission agreed to this suggestion.

228. Speaking on behalf of all delegations, the Chairman stated that the Commission entrusted the ad hoc Informal Meeting in the year to come with the task of making proposals on the reorganization of the Commission's annual session with a view to improving its structures and methods of work. He stressed that these proposals should be made in time for consideration at the Bureau meeting which will prepare the provisional agenda for the Commission's forty-eighth session.

229. The delegation of Malta expressed its appreciation to the co-sponsors of the draft decision on economic cooperation in the Mediterranean in the light of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe for their support and co-sponsorship and to the European Community for their contribution in reaching an agreement on this text. It welcomed the decision as a means to improve the political, economic, social and cultural cooperation in the Mediterranean and looked forward to the full implementation of the provisions of the decision.

Annual Report of the Commission
(agenda item 10)

230. At its eighth meeting, on 15 April 1992, the Commission adopted its report covering the period from 18 April 1991 to 15 April 1992.

231. On this occasion the delegation of Hungary drew attention to the recent meeting in Budapest of the TER Steering Committee at which participating countries had expressed their intention to continue the implementation of the Project after 1992, even if UNDP discontinued its financial support. It observed that there was a growing consensus regarding possible ways of financing the Project and expressed its gratitude to those countries which had offered to co-finance the TER Project in the future. It felt that the funds allocated by UNDP for 1992 should be used as planned. This delegation further declared its readiness to consider the recommendations of the UN/ECE regarding a solution of the problem of the Bos-Nagymaros river barrage system, particularly with respect to the protection of the environment. In its view, this complex issue should be solved jointly with the parties concerned and without resort to unilateral action.

232. The delegation of Lithuania, participating for the first time as an ECE member country, expressed its appreciation for the welcome it had received and declared its intention to participate actively in the Commission's work in the future.

CHAPTER IV

DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

A (47) THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION AS A WHOLE AND ITS FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Conscious of the important role of the ECE as an instrument for the implementation of the principles and aims of the United Nations Charter at the regional level,

Emphasizing the importance of the Charter of Paris for a New Europe and the documents of the Bonn Conference on Economic Cooperation and of other relevant meetings of the CSCE, and having in mind that these documents also contain recommendations directed towards the future work of the Commission,

Taking note of the report of the Executive Secretary on the implementation of decision O (45) (E/ECE/1252/Rev.1), the notes and reports of the Executive Secretary, in particular his report E/ECE/1251 on the Commission's activities and implementation of priorities since the forty-sixth session, and the programme of work for 1992-1996 (E/ECE/1265), and taking into account decision P (45), taken by its forty-fifth resumed annual session,

1. Reaffirms its determination to implement decisions O (45) and P (45) of the forty-fifth resumed session and requests its subsidiary bodies to continue to carry out without delay the provisions of decision O (45) when reviewing and carrying out their programmes of work and to report on the action taken to the forty-eighth session of the Commission;

2. Requests its subsidiary bodies to take into account in their work the pertinent provisions of the relevant CSCE documents which call for multilateral implementation within the framework of the Economic Commission for Europe; and also requests the Executive Secretary to contribute if invited to do so, to the Follow-up meeting of the CSCE which opened in Helsinki on 24 March 1992 and which ends by the summit meeting in July in order that the participating States of the Conference are fully apprised of the relevant activities of the ECE and to report to the Commission as soon as possible on the outcome of the Follow-up Meeting of the CSCE in Helsinki as far as it contains recommendations directed towards the future work of the Commission;

3. Approves its programme of work for 1992-1993 and endorses in principle, subject to review at its forty-eighth session, its programme of work for 1992-1996;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary, in addition to the Medium-Term Plan for 1992-1997 already transmitted to the Secretary-General, to convey also views and comments expressed by delegations on it;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary to continue to implement the provisions and recommendations contained in its decisions O (45) and P (45) where the work of the secretariat is concerned and to report to the forty-eighth session of the Commission;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary to transmit the present decision as well as other decisions of this session, together with the views expressed or agreed in relation thereto by member Governments, to the Principal Subsidiary Bodies concerned and requests them to take them into account in their work and when reviewing their respective programmes.

8th meeting
15 April 1992
(see para. 25 above)

B (47) THE PROVISION OF ADEQUATE RESOURCES FOR THE SERVICING OF THE PRIORITY SECTORS OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Recalling decisions A (44), O (45), P (45) and A (46),

Conscious that the efficiency and effectiveness of the ECE, like other UN organizations, depends to a large extent on the contribution of properly qualified and experienced staff;

Bearing in mind the importance of transparent and impartial selection procedures, implemented in a timely manner;

Noting with concern that work of particular importance to the Governments of member States in areas identified as priorities of the Economic Commission for Europe in decision O (45), especially the development of Electronic Data Interchange, which will permit unprecedented increases in efficiency and financial savings in the conduct of international trade, is being seriously hindered and delayed by unfilled vacancies and by the difficulties in redeploying essential human and material resources to these areas;

Taking account of the Secretary-General's decision to introduce a temporary suspension of external recruitment in all but exceptional circumstances,

Taking also into account the growing needs of economies in transition for increased cooperation in the priority areas of activity of the Commission, as well as in non-priority areas, in order to ensure the rational distribution of existing resources,

Stressing the need for close cooperation with the European Community, also taking account of the role of the Commission of the European Communities in its capacity as coordinator of the G 24, and with the OECD, the EBRD, the IMF, the World Bank and competent international organizations, in order to avoid duplication of efforts,

Concerned at the exceptional difficulties being experienced in the ECE on account of unfilled vacancies,

1. Requests that the vacant post of Head of the Trade Facilitation Unit, which has not been permanently filled for twelve months, and the other vacant posts in the area of Trade Facilitation, as set out in document TRADE/WP.4/R.659, and mandated by Commission decision J (45), should be filled without further delay and, if appropriate, that the Unit be given further resources to fulfil its tasks;

2. Expresses its appreciation of the measures taken by the Executive Secretary to implement the provisions of decision O (45), including the redeployment of posts and, wherever possible, the transfer of staff to strengthen priority sectors, and encourages him to continue his efforts, within existing resources, to enlist the support of the Department of Administration and Management at UN Headquarters in filling vacancies in the priority sectors, and in particular to appoint a Director of the Statistical Division, and to provide urgently needed equipment to the Divisions in the priority areas, without further delay;

3. Invites the Executive Secretary to continue to urge the Department of Administration and Management to take the necessary action to anticipate ECE vacancies brought to its attention, as far ahead as possible, and to expedite appointments to enable decisions to be made and to be notified to candidates well in advance of the expected departure of the incumbents;

4. Invites the Chair Person of the Commission, together with the Executive Secretary, to arrange consultations with the Bureaux or the Chair Persons of the Principal Subsidiary Bodies and the Working Parties reporting directly to the Commission, in order to identify difficulties in the implementation of their work programmes and to facilitate the further streamlining of their activities, so as to ensure the most efficient use of existing resources; also invites the Chair Person of the Commission to report at Ad Hoc informal meetings the results of the consultations and to suggest, whenever appropriate, practical proposals for consideration by member countries, by the secretariat and by Principal Subsidiary Bodies and the Working Parties reporting directly to the Commission;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary expeditiously to draw the attention of Permanent Missions of the member countries in Geneva to any problems of human and financial resources, as well as general management challenges confronting the secretariat, at Ad Hoc informal meetings of the Commission;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary to bring this decision to the attention of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to report on action taken at the next Ad Hoc meeting of the Commission.

8th meeting
15 April 1992
(see para. 47 above)

C (47) THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS IN THE REGION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Bearing in mind that official statistical information is an essential basis for development in the economic, demographic, social and environmental fields and for mutual knowledge and trade among the States and peoples of the region,

Bearing in mind that the essential trust of the public in official statistical information depends to a large extent on respect for the fundamental values and principles which are the basis of any democratic society which seeks to understand itself and to respect the rights of its members,

Bearing in mind that the quality of official statistics, and thus the quality of the information available to the Government, the economy and the public depends largely on the cooperation of citizens, enterprises and other respondents in providing appropriate data needed for necessary statistical compilations,

Recalling the general provisions and standards adopted to this end by the European Convention on Human Rights, the Convention of the Council of Europe of 28 January 1991 for the Protection of Individuals with regard to automatic processing of personal data, the Final Act of the Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Final Declaration of the Bonn Conference on Economic Cooperation in Europe and the Charter of Paris for a New Europe,

Recalling the efforts of governmental and non-governmental organizations active in statistics to establish standards and concepts to allow comparisons among countries,

Recalling also the International Statistical Institute Declaration of Professional Ethics,

Having taken cognizance of the consensus reached within the Conference of European Statisticians on the need to define the principles governing the activities of the offical statistical agencies in the region and in the member States,

Adopts the present resolution:

1. Official statistics provide an indispensable element in the information system of a democratic society, serving the government, the economy and the public with data about the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation. To this end, official statistics that meet the test of practical utility are to be compiled and made available on an impartial basis by official statistical agencies to honour citizens' entitlement to public information.

2. To retain trust in official statistics, the statistical agencies need to decide according to strictly professional considerations, including scientific principles and professional ethics, on the methods and procedures for the collection, processing, storage and presentation of statistical data.

3. To facilitate a correct interpretation of the data, the statistical agencies are to present information according to scientific standards on the sources, methods and procedures of the statistics.

4. The statistical agencies are entitled to comment on erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics.

5. Data for statistical purposes may be drawn from all types of sources, be they statistical surveys or administrative records. Statistical agencies are to choose the source with regard to quality, timeliness, costs and the burden on respondents.

6. Individual data collected by statistical agencies for statistical compilation, whether they refer to natural or legal persons, are to be strictly confidential and used exclusively for statistical purposes.

7. The laws, regulations and measures under which the statistical systems operate are to be made public.

8. Coordination among statistical agencies within countries is essential to achieve consistency and efficiency in the statistical system.

9. The use by statistical agencies in each country of international concepts, classifications and methods promotes the consistency and efficiency of statistical systems at all official levels.

10. Bilateral and multilateral cooperation in statistics contributes to the improvement of systems of official statistics in all countries.

The Conference of European Statisticians, at intervals of not more than three years, will discuss these principles, consider ways to contribute to their application and report to the Commission.

8th meeting
15 April 1992
(see para. 123 above)

D (47) THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION CONCERNING ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION IN EASTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Recalling its decision B (46) and confirming the importance it attaches to the promotion of the process of economic reform and transition to market economies in countries of Eastern and Central Europe, Underlining that transition of these countries to market economies, their integration into European and world economy is of great importance and meets the interests of all ECE member countries,

Noting that the work in the five priority sectors, as defined by decision O (45), contributes significantly to promoting reform and integration or reintegration of the economies in transition with the economies of the ECE region and therefore with the global economy,

Restating that, for areas not identified as priorities, the primary work methods employed to address transition issues should be workshops, symposia and other similar informal fora,

Noting with satisfaction that workshops, symposia and other similar activities organized by ECE on different aspects of economic restructuring are being held to provide advice for the countries of eastern and central Europe in facilitating their transition to market economy on the basis of decision O (45), expressing its appreciation to the ECE secretariat for the work already done in this field and noting that the organization of such meetings will be continued in 1992,

Bearing in mind the difficulties of the economies in transition to finance the organization of workshops, symposia and other similar informal activities and participation of experts from these countries in their work and conscious of the need for a thorough evaluation of the outcome of those meetings already held and the need to circulate the results of this evaluation to those concerned,

Noting with appreciation the valuable contributions already made and continuing under the auspices of the European Community, inter alia by the PHARE programme, as well as by the G 24 and by various international organizations, in order to assist economies in transition,

Taking into consideration the limited resources available in the Commission for these purposes,

1. Confirms its readiness to encourage within the resources available the process of transition to market economy in the countries of Eastern and Central Europe;

2. Invites Governments of the member countries, the European Community, competent international institutions and private donors to examine possibilities to finance workshops, symposia and other similar informal activities on transition issues organized under the auspices of the ECE as well as the participation of experts from interested countries of Eastern and Central Europe;

3. Requests the Principal Subsidiary Bodies to contribute within their competence to the preparation of workshops, symposia and other similar informal activities on the transition to market economy;

4. Reiterates its request to the Executive Secretary, within the mandate of the Commission and in accordance with decision O (45), to facilitate consultations with interested countries and international institutions in order to provide expertise on programmes of transition to a market economy;

5. Also invites the Executive Secretary to study issues on privatization with special accent on the analysis of successful measures as well as negative experience of the European countries in this field within his current research work and to publish the results as appropriate;

6. Also invites the Executive Secretary, in addition to the work already undertaken and in the light of his report E/ECE/1254, to prepare in cooperation with organizers and other participants a comprehensive study evaluating the results of workshops to be submitted to the ad hoc informal meeting of the Commission with a view to preparing concrete recommendations concerning the organization and methodology of future workshops for the next annual session of the Commission;

7. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its forty-eighth session on the implementation of this decision.

8th meeting
15 April 1992
(see para. 158 above)

E (47) COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Recalling its decision E (46),

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 46/169 on Climate Change,

Reaffirming that environmental cooperation is one of the priorities within the ECE, particularly the development of regional environmental policies and the elaboration of legal instruments as well as preventive action,

Stressing the importance of the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Noting with appreciation the contribution of the ongoing CSCE process to the solution of environmental problems in the region, and the role of the ECE in implementing the pertinent provisions of CSCE documents,

Welcoming the results of the Conference of Ministers for Environment "Environment for Europe", held at Dobris Castle (Czech and Slovak Federal Republic) from 21-23 June 1991,

Reaffirming the importance of the concept of sustainable development,

Welcoming the adoption and the signature, in Geneva, Switzerland, on 19 November 1991, by 21 Parties to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, of the Protocol on Volatile Organic Compounds,

Welcoming also the adoption and signature, in Helsinki, Finland, on 18 March 1992, by 23 and 24, respectively, member countries and by the European Community of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes as well as the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents,

Bearing in mind practical and technical problems of some member countries, especially those in transition, in the process of effective implementation of the decisions and legally binding instruments,

Noting the useful exchange of views on environmental cooperation in the ECE region, by the Ministers for Environment and Senior Officials of the ECE Governments attending the fifth session (resumed) of the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems in Helsinki (Finland), from 17-18 March 1992,

1. Appeals to ECE member Governments and the European Community to strengthen their cooperation and intensify their efforts in the area of the protection and improvement of the environment, and to integrate the environmental dimension in their national policies;

2. Requests the Senior Advisers to elaborate further on their priorities within their work programme in accordance with decision O (45), and to continue their work on possible recommendations on the development of a framework for strategic planning and management;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary to speed up the process of filling vacancies in the Environment and Human Settlements Division in accordance with decision O (45), as well as to ensure the necessary internal coordination on environmental questions and to enhance the cooperation and coordination with the European Community, OECD, UNEP and relevant international organizations;

4. Invites member countries to contribute in a constructive manner to the elaboration of a Framework Convention on Climate Change, any related legal instruments, and a Framework Convention on Biological Diversity to be concluded in time for signature during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

5. Urges the Senior Advisers to consider the implications at regional level of the conclusions of that Conference;

6. Takes note with satisfaction of the establishment by the Senior Advisers of an ad hoc working group to contribute to the preparation of the Conference "Environment for Europe" to be hosted by the Government of Switzerland;

7. Invites the Senior Advisers to consider the development of more systematic implementation and verification of ECE conventions in the field of environment, taking account of the problems of some member countries, especially those in transition,

8. Further invites the Senior Advisers to consider

- issues concerning the improvement of coordination of projects related to institution and capacity building, national reporting, environmental training, impact assessment and monitoring,
- issues concerning the development of guidance for international financing related to environmental projects in countries in transition, and
- the promotion of business opportunities related to environmental technology;

9. Emphasizes the importance of elaborating, in close coordination with OECD, a programme for environmental performance reviews for ECE member Governments which are non-members of OECD;

10. Takes note with satisfaction of the progress accomplished in the implementation of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and encourages the further negotiation, on the basis of critical loads, best available technology and other considerations, of a second protocol on further reductions of sulphur emissions after 1993 and for the second step of the protocol concerning control of NO_x emissions,

11. Invites member countries who have not yet done so and the European Community to ratify or accede to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context as soon as possible;

12. Invites member countries who have not yet done so to sign the Protocol on Volatile Organic Compounds;

13. Invites member countries who have not yet done so to sign the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes as well as the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and invites all member countries and the European Community to ratify these Conventions as soon as possible, and encourages them to implement the Conventions to the maximum extent possible pending their entry into force;

14. Encourages the further implementation of the ECE-wide campaign "Energy Efficiency 2000", aimed at enhancing trade and cooperation in energy-efficient, environmentally-sound technologies and improving management practices among ECE member countries,

15. Asks the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems and other relevant bodies of the Commission to contribute to sustainable industrial development and invites the Working Party on the Chemical Industry to follow up the conclusions of the High-Level Meeting on Cooperation and Sustainable Development in the Chemical Industry (Warsaw, Poland, 10-12 March 1992);

16. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its forty-eighth session on the implementation of this decision.

8th meeting
15 April 1992
(see para. 187 above)

F (47) COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF TRANSPORT

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Recalling its decisions O (45) and F (46),

Reiterating the priority attached to transport questions,

Bearing in mind the conclusions of the Pan European Transport Conference held in Prague in October 1991,

Underlining the importance of transport questions in regional cooperation and, in particular, as regards assistance to economies in transition;

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report and conclusions of the fifty-fourth session of the Inland Transport Committee and appreciates its decision to identify as high priority matters questions of infrastructure and combined transport, without prejudice to the former priorities, namely construction of vehicles, transport of dangerous goods and road traffic safety;

2. Welcomes the important contribution the Inland Transport Committee decided to make to the follow-up of the Pan European Transport Conference in Prague;

3. Welcomes equally the measures adopted by the Inland Transport Committee to follow-up the recommendations of the Seminar in Volos (Greece) on the Analysis of Traffic Flows within Transport Corridors in Europe;

4. Underlines the constantly increasing need for effective and efficient cooperation with the European Community, ECMT and all competent international organizations, with a view to achieving a coherent European transport concept and to avoid duplication of work;

5. Stresses the importance of availability of sufficient, compatible and reliable data as a basis for infrastructure development;

6. Underlines the need for soundly based and compatible analytical methods towards coherent infrastructure development in countries of the region;

7. Welcomes the work already initiated in this respect by the competent bodies of the Inland Transport Committee and invites Governments to concentrate efforts on this priority task;

8. Underlines the importance of the further development of the TEM and TER projects in this context and calls upon the Executive Secretary to pursue the efforts aimed at supporting a successful continuation and fulfilment of the projects;

9. Invites Governments to examine existing infrastructure agreements (AGR, AGC and AGTC), in order to identify bottlenecks and missing links as well as to ensure the proper implementation of these agreements;

10. Fully supports the revision currently carried out concerning the Agreement Concerning the Adoption of Uniform Conditions of Approval and Reciprocal Recognition of Approval for Motor Vehicle Equipment and Parts of 1958, expresses its wish to see the revision accomplished as soon as possible and asks the secretariat to take all necessary measures to facilitate the completion and implementation;

11. Invites ECE member countries to take the necessary legislative or other steps on the national level to give effect to the provisions of the revised European Agreement concerning Work of Crews of Vehicles engaged in International Road Transport (AETR) following its entry into force;

12. Stresses the need for a transport development, which takes into account the protection of the environment;

13. Reiterates the recommendation to Governments of ECE member countries, which have not yet done so, to sign as soon as possible the Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC);

14. Expresses the hope that the Seminar on the Impact of Increasing Dimensions of Loading Units on Combined Transport, 1-4 September 1992, will help to bring transport needs and available infrastructure into line, taking into account inter alia the results of the first ECE seminar held in Geneva in November 1989 and the necessity to evaluate the cost/benefit and cost/efficiency implications for both transport operators and infrastructure owners;

15. Welcomes the results of the recent Seminar on Road Traffic Safety;

16. Underlines the importance of removing obstacles and delays at border crossings, which requires a clear identification of specific problems in the use of all transport infrastructures (such as railways, roads, inland water transport);

17. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its forty-eighth session on the implementation of this decision.

8th meeting
15 April 1992
(see para. 189 above)

G (47) ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN IN THE LIGHT OF THE FINAL ACT OF THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Reaffirming its decision L (45) and other decisions previously adopted by the Commission on this subject,

Recognizing that the strengthening of economic cooperation among member States of the ECE also contributes to promoting stability in the Mediterranean region and underlining the importance of economic cooperation among the countries in the Mediterranean as a factor having a positive impact on the whole of the ECE region,

Conscious of the need to develop further economic cooperation in the Mediterranean in the light of the Final Act of the CSCE and the Charter of Paris and the useful role that the ECE can play in order to attain that objective,

Bearing in mind that several Commission member States in the Mediterranean are developing from an economic point of view,

1. Takes note of the Executive Secretary's reports E/ECE/1239 (1991) and E/ECE/1262 (1992) on economic cooperation in the Mediterranean in the light of the Final Act of the CSCE;

2. Stresses the need to devote a special effort to the protection and amelioration of the Mediterranean ecosystem as referred to in the report of the CSCE Meeting on the Mediterranean held in Palma de Mallorca, and calls upon the Executive Secretary to report to the forty-eighth session on the ECE activities in this area;

3. Further calls upon the Executive Secretary to continue to undertake action-oriented studies to explore effective means of economic cooperation in the Mediterranean, in particular in the priority areas of the ECE, for consideration by the Principal Subsidiary Bodies of the Commission,

4. Requests the Executive Secretary to continue to cooperate with the Executive Secretaries of the other relevant United Nations regional commissions as well as other United Nations bodies concerned and to pursue his contacts with the other Mediterranean countries not members of the Commission, on subjects within the competence of the ECE of common interest to the Mediterranean countries;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary to press for the ECE's involvement with the UNDP-ECE Mediterranean Transport Development Project so that it might be adopted and made operational as soon as possible;

6. Expresses satisfaction at the activities carried out by the Transport Study Centre for the Eastern Mediterranean in Volos (Greece), the Transport Study Centre for the Western Mediterranean in Barcelona (Spain), and the Transport Training Centre in Istanbul (Turkey), confirming that they are of practical value not only for transport issues in the Mediterranean, but for the work of the Inland Transport Committee in general and invites the Committee to take full advantage of the work done by the Centres, inter alia by continuing its cooperation with the Mediterranean Transport Centres in programmes of common interest;

7. Recalls resolution 1988/169 of the Economic and Social Council and the pertinent decisions of the Commission for conferring United Nations status on the above-mentioned Centres and invites the Executive Secretary to continue to pursue his efforts for the implementation of that resolution and to report thereon at the fifty-fifth session of the Inland Transport Committee;

8. Welcomes the decision of the Conference of European Statisticians to accept gratefully the offer of the Government of Italy to host in October 1992 the meeting of Statistical Offices of the Mediterranean countries and invites all interested ECE member countries to participate in this event, with a view to enhancing cooperation in this sector among countries in the Mediterranean basin;

9. Welcomes the conclusions, concerning the Mediterranean countries, of the Seminar on the Analysis of Traffic Flows within Transport Corridors in Europe, held in Volos (Greece) in June 1991, as well as the measures adopted by the Inland Transport Committee to follow-up its recommendations;

10. Takes note also of the conclusions of the Meeting of Experts on Human Settlements Problems in Southern Europe, held in Ankara (Turkey) in April 1991, on the "Regeneration and adaptation of urban space in response to the dynamics of development specific to the Mediterranean countries";

11. Invites the Executive Secretary to contribute to the preparations of the next meeting to be held in Seville (Spain) in October 1992 on the theme of "Urban design and architecture with respect to Mediterranean climate and sustainable development" and urges ECE member countries to participate actively in the meeting;

12. Requests the Executive Secretary to continue to facilitate consultations regarding the Mediterranean Technical Assistance Programme (METAP) and the Mediterranean Special Programme of Action (MEDSPA) with a view to strengthening further the environmental management and development in the Mediterranean region;

13. Requests the Executive Secretary to prepare for the forty-eighth session a report on the implementation of this decision.

8th meeting
15 April 1992
(see para. 196 above)

ANNEX I

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF ACTIONS AND PROPOSALS OF THE COMMISSION

(TO BE ABSORBED WITHIN THE EXISTING BUDGETARY PROVISIONS)

nil

ANNEX II

LIST OF MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION'S SUBSIDIARY BODIES IN 1991/92

Body and officers	Session	Symbol of report
THE COMMISSION		
Ad hoc Informal Meeting of the Commission	3 June 1991	ECE/AC.20/91(2)/1
Chairman: Mr. A. Ozadovski (Ukraine)	23 October 1991	ECE/AC.20/91(3)/1
	18 February 1992	ECE/AC.20/92(1)/1
Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution		
Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution	9th session 18-22 November 1991	ECE/EB.AIR/29
Chairman: Mr. F. Cotti (Switzerland) Vice-Chairmen: Mr. V.G. Sokolovsky (USSR) Mr. J. Thompson (Norway) Mr. P. Woltner (France)		
Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP)	15th session 2-4 September 1991	EB.AIR/GE.1/18
Chairman: Mr. E. Weber (Germany) Vice-Chairmen: Mrs. G. Mitosek (Poland) Mr. I. Allegrini (Italy) Mr. R. Gehrig (Switzerland) Mr. N.Z. Heidam (Denmark) Mr. A. Pressman (USSR)		
Group of Economic Experts on Air Pollution	7th session 24-26 June 1991	EB.AIR/GE.2/14
Chairman: Mr. B. Schaerer (Germany) Vice-Chairman: Mr. V. Tretiakov (USSR)		
Working Group on Effects	10th session 8-10 July 1991	EB.AIR/WG.1/16
Chairman: Mr. R.B. Wilson (United Kingdom) Vice-Chairmen: Mr. B. Achermann (Switzerland) Mr. T. Johannessen (Norway) Mr. V. Krasilov (USSR) Mr. P. Ringold (United States)		
Working Group on Volatile Organic Compounds	6th session 3-7 June 1991	EB.AIR/WG.4/12
Chairman: Mr. P. Woltner (France) Vice-Chairman: Mr. V. Novotny (Czechoslovakia)		

Body and officers	Session	Symbol of report
Working Group on [Abatement] Strategies	6th session 26-30 August 1991	EB.AIR/WG.5/12
Chairman: Mr. G. Persson (Sweden)		
Chairman: Mr. L. Bjorkbom (Sweden) Vice-Chairmen: Mr. W. Draper (Canada) Mr. H. Vygen (Germany)	7th session 3-6 February 1992	EB.AIR/WG.5/14
Fifth Seminar on Emission Control Technology for Stationary Sources of Air Pollution	10-14 June 1991 Nuremberg (Germany)	EB.AIR/SEM.2/3
Chairman: Mr. O. Rentz (Germany) Vice-Chairmen: Mr. E. Kovacs (Hungary) Mr. L. Lindau (Sweden)		
DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AND POLICIES		
Senior Economic Advisers to ECE Governments	27th session 13-17 May 1991	ECE/EC.AD/38
Chairman: Ms. H. Wasilewska (Poland) Vice-Chairmen: Mr. M. Cosea (Romania) Mr. F. Levcik (Austria)		
Ad hoc Meeting on International Trade and Structural Changes	2nd meeting 1-3 April 1992	EC.AD/AC.8/4
Chairman: Mr. B.A. van Hamel (Netherlands) Vice-Chairman: Mr. J. Arski (Russian Federation)		
Ad hoc Meeting on Economic Instruments for Environmental Policies for Countries in Transition (in cooperation with OECD)	16-18 December 1991	EC.AD/AC.9/2 ENVWA/AC.9/2
Chairman: Mr. J. Arski (USSR) Vice-Chairman: Mr. P. Schreiner (Norway)		
Joint Working Group on Environment and Economics	2nd meeting 18-20 December 1991	EC.AD/WG.1/4 ENVWA/WG.2/4
Chairman: Mr. P. Schreiner (Norway) Vice-Chairman: Mr. V. Gejdos (Czechoslovakia)		
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (INCLUDING FORESTRY PRODUCTS) **A. Agriculture**		
Committee on Agriculture	43rd session 9-12 March 1992	ECE/AGRI/118
Chairman: Mr. H. Redl (Austria)		
Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development	47th session 30 October - 1 November 1991	AGRI/WP.1/56
Chairman: Mr. K. Hirsch (Germany) Vice-Chairman: Mr. M. Dokuzoguz (Turkey)		

Body and officers	Session	Symbol of report
Meeting of Experts on Coordination of Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	37th session 28-30 October 1991	AGRI/WP.1/GE.1/38
Chairman: Mr. J.P. Blakey (United Kingdom) Vice-Chairman: Mr. M. Vilchez-Barros (Spain)		
Meeting of Experts on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce	38th session 21-24 May 1991	AGRI/WP.1/GE.2/47
Chairman: Mr. K. Hirsch (Germany) Vice-Chairman: Mr. F. Monastra (Italy)	39th session 30 March - 2 April 1992	AGRI/WP.1/GE.2/49
Meeting of Experts on Standardization of Meat (Porcine, Bovine and Poultry)	2nd session 9-12 September 1991	AGRI/WP.1/GE.11/6
Chairman: Mr. C. Barel (Netherlands) Vice-Chairman: Mr. P. Turkki (Finland)		
Working Party on Relations between Agriculture and the Environment	1st session 16-18 September 1991	AGRI/WP.4/2
Chairman: Mr. A. Hilmersen (Norway) Vice-Chairmen: Mr. L. Vermes (Hungary) Mrs. T. Avelar (Portugal)		
Working Party on the Economics of the Agri-Food Sector and Farm Management	1st session 21-24 October 1991	AGRI/WP.5/1
Chairman: Mr. H.R. Oosterveld (Netherlands) Vice-Chairman: Mr. Cs. Székely (Hungary)		
Study Group on Food and Agricultural Statistics in Europe	20th session 8-11 July 1991	FAO/ECE:ESS(91)-9 CES/AC.61/22
Chairman: Mr. C. Gay (France) Vice-Chairman: Mr. J. Pacha (Czechoslovakia)		
Symposium on the Use of Agricultural Land for Non-food Purposes	3-8 June 1991 Graz (Austria)	AGRI/SEM.29/2
Chairman: Mr. H. Alfons (Austria) Vice-Chairman: Mr. I. Vainio-Mattila (Finland)		
B. Timber		
Timber Committee	49th session 27-30 January 1992	ECE/TIM/59
Chairman: Mr. H. van der Meiden (Netherlands)		

Body and officers	Session	Symbol of report
Steering Committee of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training Chairman: Mr. S.-A. Axelsson (Denmark) Vice-Chairmen: Mr. P. Efthymiou (Greece) Mr. V. Korobov (USSR)	20th session 29-30 June 1991 Nodebo (Denmark)	TIM/EFC/WP.1/AC.1/14
Seminar on Thinning Operations Chairman: Mr. L. Toksvig (Denmark) Vice-Chairman: Mr. V. Korobov (USSR)	24-28 June 1991 Nodebo (Denmark)	TIM/EFC/WP.1/SEM.34/2
Seminar on Forest Fire Prevention, Land Use and People Chairman: Mr. V. Frangos (Greece) Vice-Chairmen: Mr. J. Goldammer (Germany) Mr. T. Karlikowski (Poland)	29 October - 2 November 1991 Athens (Greece)	TIM/EFC/WP.1/SEM.35/2
Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics Chairman: Mr. N.A. Burdin (USSR) Vice-Chairmen: Mr. H. Ollmann (Germany)	18th session 28-30 August 1991	TIM/EFC/WP.2/21
Ad hoc Meeting on the Forest Resource Assessment (temperate zone) 1990 Chairman: Mr. J. Kanz (FAO)	26-28 August 1991	TIM/EFC/WP.2/AC.2/9
Seminar on New Technologies and Applications in the Wood-based Panels Sector Chairman: Mr. L. Zukowski (Poland) Vice-Chairman: Mr. T.M. Maloney (United States)	20-24 May 1991 Gdansk (Poland)	ECE/TIM/SEM.14/2
ENVIRONMENT		
Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems Chairman: Mr. K. Bärlund (Finland) Vice-Chairman: Mr. J. Arski (Russian Federation)	5th session 3-6 March 1992	ECE/ENVWA/24
Chairman: Mrs. S. Pietikäinen (Finland)	Resumed 5th session 17-18 March 1992 Helsinki (Finland)	ECE/ENVWA/24/Add.1
Ad hoc Meeting on Environmental Rights and Obligations Chairman: Mr. W. Kakebeeke (Netherlands) Vice-Chairman: Mr. J. Cuth (Czechoslovakia)	1-5 July 1991 The Hague (Netherlands)	ENVWA/AC.7/2

Body and officers	Session	Symbol of report
Ad hoc Meeting on Regional Cooperation for the Management of Hazardous Chemicals (in cooperation with OECD)	2-4 September 1991 Vienna (Austria)	ENVWA/AC.8/2
Chairman: Mr. H. Kohlmann (Austria) Vice-Chairman: Mr. A. Bazykin (USSR)		
Ad hoc Meeting on Economic Instruments for Environmental Policies for Countries in Transition (in cooperation with OECD)	16-18 December 1991	ENVWA/AC.9/2 EC.AD/AC.9/2
Chairman: Mr. J. Arski (USSR) Vice-Chairman: Mr. P. Schreiner (Norway)		
Working Group to Elaborate a Draft Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents	4th session 10-14 June 1991	ENVWA/WG.1/8
Chairman: Mr. P. Woltner (France) Vice-Chairman: Mr. S. Bourtsev (USSR)	5th session 4-8 November 1991	ENVWA/WG.1/10
Joint Working Group on Environment and Economics	2nd session 18-20 December 1991	ENVWA/WG.2/4 EC.AD/WG.1/4
Chairman: Mr. P. Schreiner (Norway) Vice-Chairman: Mr. V. Gejdos (Czechoslovakia)		
Meeting of the Signatories to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context	1st meeting 2-4 December 1991	ENVWA/WG.3/2
Chairman: Ms. W. Petek (Austria) Vice-Chairman: Mr. C. Braun (United Kingdom)		
Working Party on Air Pollution Problems	20th session 26-27 June 1991	ENVWA/WP.1/8
Chairman: Mr. J. Kurfurst (Czechoslovakia) Vice-Chairman: Mr. L. Lindau (Sweden)		
Working Party on Low- and Non-waste Technology and Re-utilization and Recycling of Wastes	9th session 18-20 November 1991	ENVWA/WP.2/5
Chairman: Mr. J. Zurek (Poland) Vice-Chairman: Mr. M. Rubin (United States)		
Working Party on Water Problems	4th special session 29 April - 3 May 1991	ENVWA/WP.3/15
Chairman: Mr. W. Kittinger (Austria) Vice-Chairman: Mr. V. Sakharov (USSR)		
Chairman: Mr. V. Sakharov (USSR) Vice-Chairman: Mr. W. Kittinger (Austria)	5th special session 14-18 October 1991	ENVWA/WP.3/18
Chairman: Mr. W. Kittinger (Austria) Vice-Chairman: Mr. M. Varela (Spain)	5th session 17-18 October 1991	ENVWA/WP.3/19

Body and officers	Session	Symbol of report
Seminar on Ecosystems Approach to Water Management Chairman: Mr. A. Tollan (Norway) Vice-Chairman: Mr. V. Shlikhounov (USSR)	27-31 May 1991 Oslo (Norway)	ENVWA/SEM.5/3
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS		
Committee on Human Settlements Chairman: Mr. S. Staynov (Bulgaria) Vice-Chairman: Mr. J. Tutenuit (France)	52nd session 10-12 September 1991	ECE/HBP/83
Meeting of Experts on Human Settlements Problems in Southern Europe Chairman: Ms. F. Eke (Turkey) Vice-Chairman: Mr. F. Rodriguez-Garcia (Spain)	16th session 24-26 April 1991 Ankara (Turkey)	HBP/GE.2/25
Working Party on Housing Chairman: Mr. N. Karadimov (Bulgaria) Vice-Chairman: Mr. P. Brown (Canada)	17th session 12-14 November 1991	HBP/WP.1/29
Working Party on Urban and Regional Planning and Research Chairman: Mr. U. Christiansen (Denmark) Vice-Chairman: Mr. L. Ianasi (Romania)	3rd session 25-27 February 1992	HBP/WP.4/6
Symposium on Planning for Sustainable Tourism Development Chairman: Mr. E. Dauphin (Luxembourg) Vice-Chairmen: Mr. A. Buchanan (United Kingdom) Mr. K. Misley (Hungary)	28-30 October 1991 Luxembourg	HBP/SEM.46/2
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT **A. Chemicals**		
Working Party on the Chemical Industry Chairman: Mr. V. Evsioukov (USSR) Vice-Chairman: Mr. V. Kamenicky (United States)	1st session 2-4 October 1991	ECE/CHEM/83
High-level Meeting on Cooperation and Sustainable Development in the Chemical Industry Chairman: Mr. S. Kozlowski (Poland) Vice-Chairmen: Mr. B. Botos (Hungary) Ms. K. Refsnes (Norway) Mr. H. Lever (CEFIC)	10-12 March 1992 Warsaw (Poland)	CHEM/AC.25/10

Body and officers	Session	Symbol of report
Preparatory Meeting for the High-level Meeting on Cooperation and Sustainable Development in the Chemical Industry	2nd meeting 28 May 1991	CHEM/AC.25/4
Chairman: Mr. E. Grzywa (Poland) Vice-Chairman: Mr. J.-M. Devos (CEFIC)	3rd meeting 21 January 1992	CHEM/AC.25/7
Meeting for the Preparation of the Directory of Chemical Producers and Products	2nd meeting 30 September 1991	CHEM/AC.26/4
Chairman: Mr. P. Laroche (France)		
Meeting of Experts on the Periodic Survey of the Chemical Industry	17th session 1 October 1991	CHEM/GE.1/28
Chairman: Mr. N. Edison (United Kingdom)		

B. Engineering industries and automation

Body and officers	Session	Symbol of report
Meeting on Questions of Statistics concerning Engineering Industries and Automation	13th meeting 31 October 1991	ENG.AUT/AC.1/22
Chairman: Mr. J. Tuomainen (Finland) Vice-Chairman: Mr. A. Szabo (Hungary)		
Workshop on Rehabilitation Engineering: REHAB-2	2nd meeting 12-15 May 1991 Fagernes (Norway)	ENG.AUT/AC.14/6
Chairman: Mr. O. Lorentsen (Norway) Vice-Chairmen: Mr. R.A. Foulds (United States) Mr. V. Komarek (Czechoslovakia)		
Ad hoc Meeting for the Study on the Medium- and Long-term Trends and Prospects in Engineering Industries and Automation	1st meeting 1 November 1991	ENG.AUT/AC.17/2
Chairman: Mr. H. Engman (Sweden) Vice-Chairman: Mr. R. Bandorowicz (Poland)		
Preparatory Meeting for the Seminar on New Materials and their Application in Engineering Industries	30 October 1991	ENG.AUT/SEM.10/AC/2
Chairman: Mr. V. Trefilov (Ukraine)		
Preparatory Meeting for the Seminar on Foundry Production and Ecology	1st meeting 30 October 1991	ENG.AUT/SEM.11/AC/2
Chairman: Mr. D. Kukui (Belarus)		

Body and officers	Session	Symbol of report
C. Standardization		
Working Party on Standardization Policies Chairman: Mr. S.A. Warshaw (United States) Vice-Chairman: Mr. V.V. Sytchev (USSR)	1st session 13-15 May 1991	ECE/STAND/34
D. Steel		
Working Party on Steel Chairman: Mr. A. Signora (France) Vice-Chairman: Mr. O. Kopecny (Czechoslovakia)	1st session 23-25 October 1991	ECE/STEEL/76
Ad hoc Meeting for the Study on Steel Product Quality and Maximum Utilization of Scrap Chairman: Mr. V. Copak (Czechoslovakia)	2nd meeting 6 February 1992	STEEL/AC.12/4
Ad hoc Meeting on the Current Market Developments in the Iron and Steel Industry Chairman: Mr. J. Ghislain (Belgium)	6 February 1992	-
Meeting of Experts on the Steel Market Chairman: Mr. J. Ghislain (Belgium) Vice-Chairman: Mr. V.S. Olefir (USSR)	30th session 20 June 1991	STEEL/GE.4/9
Meeting of Experts on Steel Statistics Chairman: Mr. E. Ruist (Sweden) Vice-Chairman: Mr. M. Negulici (Romania)	20th session 18 June 1991	STEEL/GE.5/6
Seminar on Producers' and Users' Metallurgical Requirements in the Welding of Steel Products Chairman: Mr. B. Paton (Ukraine) Vice-Chairmen: Mr. R. Salkin (Belgium) Mr. Y. Sterenbogen (Ukraine)	16-20 September 1991 Kiev (Ukraine)	STEEL/SEM.17/3
Preparatory Meeting for the Seminar on the Steel Industry in Countries in Transition towards Market-Economy Conditions Chairman: Mr. M. Negulici (Romania)	1st session 19 June 1991	STEEL/SEM.18/AC/2
INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT FINANCE		
Committee on the Development of Trade Chairman: Mr. J. Kaczurba (Poland) Vice-Chairman: Mr. W. van Oitmars (Netherlands)	40th session 2-4 December 1991	ECE/TRADE/178

Body and officers	Session	Symbol of report
Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures	34th session 17-20 September 1991	TRADE/WP.4/177
Chairman: Mr. V. David (Czechoslovakia) Vice-Chairman: Mr. T. Blomfeldt (Finland)	35th session 17-20 March 1992	TRADE/WP.4/178
Meeting of Experts on Data Elements and Automatic Data Interchange	44th session 18-19 September 1991	TRADE/WP.4/GE.1/85
Chairman: Mr. E. Dreyfous (France)		
Chairman: Mr. R. Walker (United Kingdom)	45th session 18-19 March 1992	TRADE/WP.4/GE.1/87
Meeting of Experts on Procedures and Documentation	44th session 17 September 1991	TRADE/WP.4/GE.2/85
Chairman: Mr. R. Dale (United Kingdom)		
Chairman: Mr. E. Goffin (Belgium)	45th session 17 March 1992	TRADE/WP.4/GE.2/87
Working Party on International Contract Practices in Industry	38th session 24-26 June 1991	TRADE/WP.5/38
Chairman: Mr. D. Stein (United States) Vice-Chairman: Mr. A. Martynov (USSR)	39th session 25-27 November 1991	TRADE/WP.5/40
ENERGY		
Committee on Energy	1st session 12-14 November 1991	ECE/ENERGY/18
Chairman: Mr. J. Lambotte (France) Vice-Chairman: Mr. I. Szergenyi (Hungary)		
Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 2000 Project	1st session 28-30 May 1991	ENERGY/AC.11/4
Chairman: Mr. B. Devin (France) Vice-Chairman: Mr. L. Lengyel (Hungary)		
Chairman: Mr. B. Devin (France) Vice-Chairman: Mr. G.A. Foldvary (Hungary)	2nd session 3-5 March 1992	ENERGY/AC.11/6
Ad hoc Meeting on Energy Efficiency Standards	14-16 January 1992	ENERGY/AC.12/2
Chairman: Ms. M. Troen (Norway) Vice-Chairman: Mr. V. Kozlov (Russian Federation)		
Ad hoc Meeting on Global Energy Efficiency 21	6 March 1992	ENERGY/AC.13/2
Chairman: Mr. T.B. Johansson (Sweden) Vice-Chairman: Mr. D. Levy (France)		

Body and officers	Session	Symbol of report
Working Party on Coal **Chairman:** Mr. J. Lambotte (France) **Vice-Chairman:** Mr. V. Astafiev (USSR)	1st session 28-30 October 1991	ENERGY/WP.1/2
Ad hoc meeting on the Elaboration of a New International Classification of Coals **Chairman:** Mr. M. Lemos de Sousa (Portugal) **Vice-Chairman:** Mr. R. Damiani (Italy)	9th meeting 30 September - 2 October 1991	ENERGY/WP.1/AC.1/2
Meeting of Experts on Productivity and Management Problems in the Coal Industry **Chairman:** Mr. V. Ilyin (USSR) **Vice-Chairman:** Mr. E. Hamm (Germany)	21st session 6-8 May 1991	ENERGY/WP.1/GE.1/1
Meeting of Experts on Coal Trade and Coal Statistics **Chairman:** Mr. K. Moffitt (United Kingdom) **Vice-Chairman:** Mr. V. Sukhov (USSR)	1st session 3-5 June 1991 Rome (Italy)	ENERGY/WP.1/GE.2/2
Meeting of Experts on the Utilization and Preparation of Solid Fuels **Chairman:** Mr. V. Ruban (USSR) **Vice-Chairman:** Mr. P. Kettunen (Finland)	21st session 2-4 October 1991	ENERGY/WP.1/GE.3/2
Working Party on Electric Power **Chairman:** Mr. A. Pilatowicz (Poland) **Vice-Chairman:** Mr. J. Thiry (Belgium)	2nd session 10-12 February 1992	ENERGY/WP.2/3
Meeting of Experts on Electric Power Generation and the Environment **Chairman:** Mr. P. Reeh (Germany) **Vice-Chairman:** Mr. J. Rakowski (Poland)	1st session 1-3 October 1991	ENERGY/WP.2/GE.1/2
Meeting of Experts on Problems of Planning and Operating Large Power Systems **Chairman:** Mr. J. Thiry (Belgium) **Vice-Chairman:** Mr. T. Terstvanszky (Hungary)	23rd session 22-23 May 1991	ENERGY/WP.2/GE.2/2
Working Party on Gas **Chairman:** Mr. L. Wappel (Hungary) **Vice-Chairman:** Mr. J. Elgström Garcia (Spain)	2nd session 20-22 January 1992	ENERGY/WP.3/3

Body and officers	Session	Symbol of report
Meeting of Experts on Natural Gas Resources Chairman: Mr. H.A. van Adrichem Boogaert (Netherlands) Vice-Chairman: Mr. V. Ermakov (USSR)	14th session 17-19 June 1991	ENERGY/WP.3/GE.1/2
Meeting of Experts on the Use and Distribution of Gas Chairman: Mr. V. Vershinsky (USSR) Vice-Chairman: Mr. C. Bernardet (France)	22nd session 9-10 September 1991	ENERGY/WP.3/GE.2/2
Meeting of Experts on the Transport and Storage of Gas Chairman: Mr. M. Pierkarski (Poland)	22nd session 11-12 September 1991	ENERGY/WP.3/GE.3/2
Symposium on the Use of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) as Fuels for Internal Combustion Engines Chairman: Mr. I. Karp (Ukraine) Vice-Chairmen: Mr. A. Gritsenko (USSR) Mr. E.I. Williamson (United Kingdom)	23-27 September 1991 Kiev (Ukraine)	ENERGY/WP.3/SEM.15/2
Symposium on Energy Efficiency Measures in Industry Chairman: Mr. P. Novak (Yugoslavia) Vice-Chairman: Mr. B. Devin (France)	30 September - 4 October 1991 Bled (Yugoslavia)	ENERGY/SEM.9/2
Seminar on Solar Power Systems Chairman: Mr. E. Volkov (USSR) Vice-Chairman: Mr. P.-G. Gutermuth (Germany)	22-26 April 1991 Alushta (USSR)	ENERGY/SEM.10/2
Preparatory Meeting for the Symposium on the Environmental Benefits of Energy Conservation and for Energy Efficiency Demonstration Zones Chairman: Mr. D. Volfberg (Russian Federation) Vice-Chairman: Mr. S. Bolland (United Kingdom)	6-7 February 1992	ENERGY/SEM.11/AC/2

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Body and officers	Session	Symbol of report
Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Science and Technology Chairman: Mr. G. Kint (Belgium) Vice-Chairman: Mr. M. Stalski (Poland)	19th session 25-27 September 1991	ECE/SC.TECH/42

Body and officers	Session	Symbol of report
TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS AND TOURISM		
Inland Transport Committee	54th session 3-7 February 1992	ECE/TRANS/94 and Add.1
Chairman: Miss A. Roy (France) Vice-Chairmen: Mr. P. Danjord (Norway) Mr. D. Valásek (Czechoslovakia)		
Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics	4th session 30 September - 2 October 1991	TRANS/WP.5/8
Chairman: Mr. D. Dervenis (Greece) Vice-Chairman: Mr. A. Peltram (Czechoslovakia)		
Working Party on Transport Statistics	42nd session 25-27 November 1991	TRANS/WP.6/121 CES/AC.62/73
Chairman: Mr. F. Stulemeijer (Netherlands)		
Ad hoc Meeting on Road Traffic Censuses	2-4 September 1991	TRANS/WP.6/AC.2/10
Chairman: Mr. E. Scotto (Italy)		
Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs	47th session 4-7 November 1991	TRANS/WP.11/184
Chairman: Mr. M. de Clippel (Belgium) Vice-Chairman: Mrs. N. Melik (France)		
Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods	48th session 13-17 May 1991	TRANS/WP.15/118
Chairman: Mr. E. Berson (France) Vice-Chairman: Mr. J. Myhre (Norway)		
Chairman: Mr. E. Berson (France)	49th (special) session 10-14 February 1992	TRANS/WP.15/120
Joint Meeting of the RID Safety Committee and the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods	17-27 September 1991	TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/46
Chairman: Mr. W. Visser (Netherlands) Vice-Chairman: Mr. F. Lohrmann (Germany)	10-20 March 1992 Berne (Switzerland)	TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/48
Working Party on Combined Transport	14th session 27-30 May 1991	TRANS/WP.24/49
Chairman: Mr. E. Volk (Germany)		
	15th session 16-17 March 1992	TRANS/WP.24/51

Body and officers	Session	Symbol of report
Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport	70th session 22-26 April 1991	TRANS/WP.30/139
Chairman: Mr. F. Hohrmann (Germany)		
Chairman: Mr. R. Bellis (United Kingdom)	71st session 7-11 October 1991	TRANS/WP.30/141
Chairman: Mr. E. Vanderstede (Belgium) Vice-Chairman: Mr. R. Ehmcke (Germany)	72nd session 20-23 January 1992	TRANS/WP.30/143
Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention 1975	14th session 10-11 October 1991	TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/29
Chairman: Mr. J. Kroon (Netherlands) Vice-Chairman: Mr. F. Paroissin (France)		
Principal Working Party on Road Transport	85th session 13-15 November 1991	TRANS/SC1/348
Chairman: Mr. J. Jinks (United Kingdom) Vice-Chairman: Mr. L. Tarwid (Poland)		
Ad hoc Meeting of Experts on Facilitation of International Road Transport Operations	11-12 November 1991	TRANS/SC1/348 Annex I
Chairman: Mr. J. Jinks (United Kingdom)		
Ad hoc Meeting on Implementation of the Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR)	11th meeting 6-7 May 1991	TRANS/SC1/AC.5/22
Chairman: Mr. E. Renstrup (Denmark)		
Working Party on Road Traffic Safety	15th session 22-25 April 1991	TRANS/SC1/WP.1/30
Chairman: Mr. G. Plomteux (Belgium)		
	16th session 9-12 December 1991	TRANS/SC1/WP.1/32
	17th session 23-27 March 1992	TRANS/SC1/WP.1/35
Working Party on the Construction of Vehicles	94th session 25-28 June 1991	TRANS/SC1/WP29/313
Chairman: Mr. V. Koutenev (Russian Federation) Vice-Chairman: Mr. B. Gauvin (France)	95th session 15-18 October 1991	TRANS/SC1/WP29/322
	96th session 10-13 March 1992	TRANS/SC1/WP29/341

Body and officers	Session	Symbol of report
Meeting of Experts on Lighting and Light-signalling Chairman: Mr. G. Meekel (Netherlands)	26th session 1-3 May 1991	TRANS/SC1/WP29/GRE/26
	27th session 27-29 November 1991	TRANS/SC1/WP29/GRE/27
Meeting of Experts on Pollution and Energy Chairman: Mr. B. Gauvin (France)	23rd session 20-22 January 1992	TRANS/SC1/WP29/GRPE/23
Meeting of Experts on Brakes and Running Gear Chairman: Mr. P. Murphy (United Kingdom)	28th session 6-8 May 1991	TRANS/SC1/WP29/GRRF/28
	29th session 28-30 August 1991	TRANS/SC1/WP29/GRRF/29
	30th session 10-13 February 1992	TRANS/SC1/WP29/GRRF/30
Meeting of Experts on General Safety Provisions Chairman: Mr. A. Perea (Spain)	60th session 29-30 April 1991	TRANS/SC1/WP29/GRSG/39
	61st session 27-30 May 1991 Rome (Italy)	TRANS/SC1/WP29/GRSG/40
	62nd session 23-25 March 1992	TRANS/SC1/WP29/GRSG/41
Meeting of Experts on Passive Safety Chairman: Mr. C. Lomonaco (Italy)	9th session 21-23 May 1991	TRANS/SC1/WP29/GRSP/9
	10th session 25-27 September 1991	TRANS/SC1/WP29/GRSP/10
Principal Working Party on Rail Transport Chairman: Mr. A. de Zoete (Netherlands) Vice-Chairman: Mr. C. Masikowski (Poland)	45th session 4-6 November 1991	TRANS/SC2/176
Principal Working Party on Inland Water Transport Chairman: Miss C. Vanluchêne (Belgium) Vice-Chairman: Mr. I. Valkar (Hungary)	35th session 28-30 October 1991	TRANS/SC3/128
Ad hoc Meeting of Experts on Classification of Inland Waterways Chairman: Mr. J. Kubec (Czechoslovakia)	1st meeting 25-27 June 1991 Prague (Czechoslovakia)	TRANS/SC3/AC.3/1
	2nd meeting 8-10 January 1992	TRANS/SC3/AC.3/3

Body and officers	Session	Symbol of report
Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation Co-Chairmen: Mr. D. Anissin (USSR) Mr. H.R. van Doorn (Netherlands) Vice-Chairman: Miss C. Vanluchêne (Belgium)	1st session 29 April - 1 May 1991	TRANS/SC3/WP.3/2
Chairman: Mr. H.R. van Doorn (Netherlands)	2nd session 12-14 August 1991	TRANS/SC3/WP.3/4
Chairman: Mr. D. Anissin (Russian Federation)	3rd session 17-19 February 1992	TRANS/SC3/WP.3/6
Seminar on the Analysis of Traffic Flows within Transport Corridors in Europe Chairman: Mr. D. Dervenis (Greece) Vice-Chairmen: Mr. R. Wiberg (Sweden) Mr. A. Peltram (Czechoslovakia)	4-6 June 1991 Volos (Greece)	TRANS/SEM.8/2
Seminar on Road Safety Chairman: Mr. J. Jenssen (Norway) Vice-Chairmen: Mr. H. Büschi (Switzerland) Mr. J. L'Hoste (France)	23-24 March 1992	TRANS/SEM.9/2
STATISTICS		
Conference of European Statisticians Chairman: Mr. C. Malaguerra (Switzerland) Vice-Chairmen: Mr. S. Tassev (Bulgaria) Mr. E. Hölder (Germany) Mr. S. Johansson (Sweden) Mr. N. Borisenko (Ukrainian SSR)	39th plenary session 17-21 June 1991	ECE/CES/38
Meeting on Consumer Price Indices (jointly with ILO) Chairman: Mr. P.A. Armknecht (United States) Vice-Chairman: Mr. D. Koch (Switzerland)	18-21 November 1991	CES/AC.49/33
Meeting on Water Quality Statistics Chairman: Mr. D. Edwards (United Kingdom)	9-12 December 1991	CES/AC.56/36
Study Group on Food and Agricultural Statistics in Europe Chairman: Mr. C. Gay (France) Vice-Chairman: Mr. J. Pacha (Czechoslovakia)	20th session 8-11 July 1991	CES/AC.61/22 FAO/ECE:ESS(91)-9

Body and officers	Session	Symbol of report
Working Party on Transport Statistics Chairman: Mr. F. Stulemeijer (Netherlands)	42nd session 25-27 November 1991	CES/AC.62/73 TRANS/WP.6/121
Seminar on Statistics of Household Income Chairman: Mr. S. Wahlström (Sweden)	1-5 July 1991	CES/SEM.30/2

ECE/UNDP Operational Projects

Body and officers	Session	Symbol of report
Task Force of the Statistical Computing Project, Phase 2 Chairman: Mr. B. Sundgren (Sweden)	9th meeting 13-14 June 1991	ECE/UNDP/SCP-2/TF9
Steering Committee of the Statistical Computing Project, Phase 2 Chairman: Mr. B. Sundgren (Sweden)	5th meeting 13-15 November 1991 Bratislava (Czechoslovakia)	ECE/UNDP/SCP-2/21
Inter-Country Project on International Cooperative Research on Low-calorie Fuel Technology, Workshop on Clean Utilization of Low-calorie-value Solid Fuels Chairman: Mr. M. Salgian (Romania)	23-27 September 1991 Deva (Romania)	ECE/UNDP/LCT/36
Executive Technical Experts Committee (ETEC) Chairman: Mr. M. Salgian (Romania)	11th meeting 27 September 1991 Deva (Romania)	ECE/UNDP/LCT/37

ANNEX III

PUBLICATIONS AND DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSION

A. LIST OF MAJOR ECE STUDIES AND PUBLICATIONS, 1991/92

NOTE: The language versions issued are indicated by the following abbreviations: E, English; F, French; R, Russian; E/F, bilingual (English/French); E/F/R, trilingual (English/French/Russian); *, published for the United Nations by external publishers, as indicated.

GENERAL

Annual Report of the ECE to the ECOSOC, 28 April 1990 - 17 April 1991, Supplement No. 15 (E/1991/36-E/ECE/1247)	E F R
Economic Survey of Europe in 1990-1991 (Sales No. 91.II.E.1)	E F R
Economic Bulletin for Europe, Vol. 43 (1991) (Sales No. 91.II.E.39)	E F R

Economic Studies

No. 2: Reforms in Foreign Economic Relations of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union (Sales No. 91.II.E.5)	E only

Discussion Papers, Vol. 1 (1991)

No. 1: Economic Growth in the Market Economies, 1950-2000 (Sales No. GV.E.91.0.15)	E only
No. 2: Five Years of Perestroika: Results, Problems, Prospects (Sales No. GV.E.91.0.22)	E only

ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER PROBLEMS

European Red List of Globally Threatened Animals and Plants (E/ECE/1249-ECE/ENVWA/20) (Sales No. 91.II.E.34)	E F R
Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, done at Espoo (Finland), on 25 February 1991 (E/ECE/1250)	E F R
Strategies and Policies for Air Pollution Abatement - 1990 major review prepared under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (ECE/EB.AIR/27) (Sales No. 91.II.E.29)	E F R
Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution concerning the Control of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds or their Transboundary Fluxes (ECE/EB.AIR/30)	E F R

TRANSPORT

Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the Special Equipment to be Used for Such Carriage (ATP), done at Geneva on 1 September 1970 - First revised edition (E/ECE/810-E/ECE/TRANS/563/Rev.1) (Sales No. 91.II.E.38)	E/F/R
Transport Information - 1991 (TRANS/INFO/91/1) (Sales No. 91.II.E.36)	E F R

Periodic Bulletins

Annual Bulletin of Transport Statistics for Europe, 1991, Vol. XLI (Sales No. 91.II.E.7)	E/F/R
Statistics of Road Traffic Accidents in Europe, 1992, Vol. XXXVII (Sales No. 92.II.E.3)	E/F/R

STATISTICS

Periodic Bulletins

Statistical Journal, Vol. 7, No. 4 (International Organizations Services, B.V.)	E *
Statistical Journal, Vol. 8, Nos. 1-4 (International Organizations Services, B.V.)	E *

TRADE

Unique Identification Code Methodology - UNIC - Recommendation No. 8/Rev.1 (ECE/TRADE/175)	E F R
Legal Aspects of Privatization in Industry (ECE/TRADE/180) (Sales No. 92.II.E.2)	E F R
Foreign Investment in Eastern Europe (ECE/TRADE/181)	E F R

AGRICULTURE

UN/ECE Standards for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (ECE/AGRI/55/Rev.2) (Sales No. 91.II.E.42)	E F R
Prices of Agricultural Products and Selected Inputs in Europe and North America, 1989/90: Annual ECE/FAO Price Review No. 40 (ECE/AGRI/114) (Sales No. 91.II.E.19)	E F R
UN/ECE Standards for Dry and Dried Fruit (ECE/AGRI/116) (Sales NO. 91.II.E.43)	E F R

Agricultural Review for Europe No. 33, 1989 and 1990 (ECE/AGRI/115):

Vol. I:	General Review (Sales No. 91.II.E.22)	E F R
Vol. II:	Agricultural Trade (Sales No. 91.II.E.23)	E F R
Vol. III:	The Grain Market (Sales No. 91.II.E.24)	E F R
Vol. IV:	The Livestock and Meat Market (Sales No. 91.II.E.25)	E F R
Vol. V:	The Milk and Dairy Products Market (Sales No. 91.II.E.21)	E F R
Vol. VI:	The Egg Market (Sales No. 91.II.E.26)	E F R

AGRI/MECH Reports:

No. 127:	Collecting, Handling and Using of Maize Stalks (FAO/ECE/AGRI/WP.2/106)	E F R
No. 128:	Trends in the Mechanization of Potato Production (FAO/ECE/AGRI/WP.2/107)	E F R
No. 129:	Agricultural Mechanization Training Farmers and Technicians (FAO/ECE/AGRI/WP.2/109)	E F R

AGRI/Agrarian Structures and Farm Rationalization Reports:

No. 7:	Legislation and Measures for the Solving of Environmental Problems Resulting from Agricultural Practices (with particular reference to soil, air and water), their Economic Consequences and Impact on Agrarian Structures and Farm Rationalization (FAO/ECE/AGRI/WP.3/31)	E F R

TIMBER

Possible Market Effects of Forest Decline attributed to Air Pollutants in Europe (ECE/TIM/57)	E F R

Periodic Bulletins

Timber Bulletin, Vol. XLIV

No. 1:	The ECE Timber Committee Yearbook, 1990	E F R
No. 3:	Monthly Prices for Forest Products	E/F
No. 4:	Forest Products Statistics, 1986-1990	E/F
No. 5:	Annual Forest Products Market Review, 1990-1991	E F R
No. 6:	Forest Products Trade Flow Data, 1989-1990	E/F
No. 7:	Monthly Prices for Forest Products	E/F
No. 8:	Forest Products Markets in 1991 and Prospects for 1992	E/F
No. 9:	Forest Products Statistics, 1986 - June 1991	E/F

HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Periodic Bulletins

Annual Bulletin of Housing and Building Statistics for Europe, 1990, Vol. XXXIV (Sales No. 91.II.E.11) E/F/R

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

A. CHEMICALS

Rational Use of Water and its Treatment in the Chemical Industry (ECE/CHEM/78) (Sales No. 91.II.E.3) E F R

Annual Review of the Chemical Industry, 1989 (ECE/CHEM/79) (Sales No. 91.II.E.20) E F R

Substitutes for Tripolyphosphate in Detergents (ECE/CHEM/80) (Sales No. 91.II.E.33) E F R

Engineering Plastics (ECE/CHEM/81) (Sales No. 91.II.E.32) E F R

Periodic Bulletins

Annual Bulletin of Trade in Chemical Products, 1989, Vol. XVI (Sales No. 91.II.E.28) E/F/R

B. ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES AND AUTOMATION

Food-Processing Machinery, including Packaging Techniques (ECE/ENG.AUT/43) (Sales No. 91.II.E.30) E F R

Annual Review of Engineering Industries and Automation, 1990: Vols. I and II (ECE/ENG.AUT/47) (Sales No. 91.II.E.40) E F R

Periodic Bulletins

Bulletin of Statistics on World Trade in Engineering Products, 1989 (Sales No. 91.II.E.9) E/F/R

D. STEEL

The Steel Market in 1990 (ECE/STEEL/73) (Sales No. 91.II.E.35) E F R

Iron and Steel Scrap: Its Significance and Influence on Further Developments in the Iron and Steel Industries - Fifth updating (ECE/STEEL/74) (Sales No. 91.II.E.37) E F R

ENERGY

Code of Uniform Standards and Procedures for the Performance of Draught Surveys of Coal Cargoes (ECE/ENERGY/19) E F R

Periodic Bulletins

Annual Bulletin of General Energy Statistics for Europe, 1989, Vol. XXII (Sales No. 91.II.E.14)	E/F/R
Annual Bulletin of Coal Statistics for Europe, 1991, Vol. XXIV (Sales No. 91.II.E.15)	E/F/R

B. LIST OF DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION AT ITS FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION

Provisional agenda	E/ECE/1248
The Commission's activities and implementation of priorities since the forty-sixth session	/1251
ECE activities in the field of environment	/1252/Rev.1
EDIFACT	/1253
Activities designed to assist countries of the region in transition to a market economy and their integration with the European and global economy	/1254
Cooperation and coordination of activities with other international organizations and institutions	/1255
Commission's contribution to the United Nations programmes designed to assist countries of the region which are developing from the economic point of view and developing countries of other regions	/1256
Resolutions bearing on the work of the Commission adopted by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly	/1257
Cooperation in the field of economic analysis and assistance to countries in transition	/1258
International cooperation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant	/1259
Cooperation in the field of environment and sustainable development	/1260
Cooperation in the field of transport	/1261
Economic cooperation in the Mediterranean in the light of the Final Act of the CSCE	/1262
Activities of the Economic Commission for Europe to implement the pertinent provisions of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and other CSCE documents, including the Charter of Paris for a New Europe	/1263
The future work of the Commission in regard to cooperation in the ECE region, particularly in the light of Commission decision O (45)	/1264
Programme of work for 1992-1996	/1265

Reports of the Principal Subsidiary Bodies of the Commission

Senior Economic Advisers to ECE Governments	ECE/EC.AD/38 + Add.1
Committee on Agriculture	ECE/AGRI/118
Timber Committee	ECE/TIM/59
Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems	ECE/ENVWA/24 + Add.1
Committee on Human Settlements	ECE/HBP/83
Committee on the Development of Trade	ECE/TRADE/178
Committee on Energy	ECE/ENERGY/18
Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Science and Technology	ECE/SC.TECH./42
Inland Transport Committee	ECE/TRANS/94 + Add.1
Conference of European Statisticians	ECE/CES/38

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Reports of other subsidiary bodies

Working Party on the Chemical Industry	ECE/CHEM/83
Working Party on Standardization Policies	ECE/STAND/34
Working Party on Steel	ECE/STEEL/76

ANNEX IV

PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1992-1996

Introduction

The programme of work is divided into the following programme categories:

CATEGORY	SUB-PROGRAMME
00	Policy and coordination of the work of the Commission
01	Development issues and policies
02	Food and agriculture (including forestry products) A. Agriculture B. Timber
03	Environment
04	Human settlements
05	Industrial development A. Chemicals * B. Engineering industries and automation * C. Standardization * D. Steel *
06	International trade and development finance A. Trade facilitation B. Trade
07	Energy issues
08	Science and technology
09	Transport, communications and tourism
10	Statistics

* Activities in these areas are carried out by Working Parties reporting directly to the Commission.

SUB-PROGRAMME 00 - POLICY AND COORDINATION OF THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION

Authority: Terms of reference of the Commission; relevant resolutions and other decisions of the Economic and Social Council and the Commission.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 00.1: ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION AS A WHOLE AND PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES

00.1.1 Review and guidance of the activities of the Commission as a whole: evaluation, coordination and formulation of the programme of work

Description: At its annual sessions the Commission will consider its work as a whole; review and evaluate its own activity as well as that of its subsidiary bodies; guide the policy orientation, coordination and planning of the work carried out by the subsidiary bodies under its auspices; and formulate and approve its programme of work.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The Commission performs this function with the assistance of its Sessional Committee as appropriate, by considering at its annual sessions the reports of its subsidiary bodies on their work and the Executive Secretary's reports on the implementation of its relevant resolutions and decisions. The Commission considers and approves annually its programme of work for the following year and endorses in principle, subject to review at the following session, its long-term programme of work covering the next five years. The policy guidance given by the Commission, including measures for coordination, is embodied in its decisions to be implemented, as appropriate, by member Governments, by the Commission's subsidiary bodies and by its secretariat.

Duration: Continuing.

00.1.2 The work of the Commission as a whole and its future activities

Description: In its decision 0 (45) the Commission decided on the following priority areas of activity: environment, transport, statistics, trade facilitation, and economic analysis. It also decided on practical measures in these priority areas and on the broad outlines of work in sectors not identified as priorities, in order to promote the process of economic reform and integrating the economies in transition with the global economy. The Commission also agreed on a series of measures on the methods of work, the structure and the resources of the Commission.

Work to be undertaken: In its decision A (47), the Commission requested its subsidiary bodies to continue to carry out without delay the provisions of decision 0 (45) when reviewing and carrying out their programmes of work, and requested also the Executive Secretary to implement the provisions of that decision where the secretariat is concerned.

The Commission requested its subsidiary bodies to take into account in their work the pertinent provisions of the relevant CSCE documents which call for multilateral implementation within the framework of the ECE; and requested the Executive Secretary to report if invited to do so to ensure that all relevant meetings of the CSCE were fully apprised of the relevant activities of the ECE.

It approved its programme of work for 1992-1993 and endorsed in principle, subject to review at its forty-eighth session, its programme of work for 1992-1996.

The provisions of decision A (47) and the other decisions adopted by the Commission at its forty-seventh session will be drawn to the attention of the pertinent subsidiary bodies for appropriate action, and reports on the implementation of these decisions will be prepared for consideration by the Commission at its forty-eighth session.

Duration: One year (1992/1993)

00.1.3 The work of the Commission concerning economies in transition in central and eastern Europe

Description: Taking into account the fact that the recent and current developments in central and eastern Europe modify the characteristics and functioning of the societies and economies of countries of the region, the Commission, in its decisions D (45) and B (46), considered that in view of its composition and the nature of the cooperation which it implements it had a role to play in assisting the transition to market economies.

In its decision O (45) the Commission noted that work in its five priority sectors contributed significantly to promoting reform and integration or reintegration of the economies in transition with the economies of the ECE region and therefore with the global economy. It decided, in order to promote the process of economic reform, on broad outlines of work in sectors not identified as priorities, and determined that the primary work methods employed to address transition issues should be workshops and other similar informal fora.

Work accomplished: Since the adoption of decision D (45) 42 workshops were held and a further 59 are under consideration. The Principal Subsidiary Bodies at their meetings during the year reviewed their programmes and methods of work to permit a rapid and effective response to the needs of the economies in transition. These activities were carried out in close collaboration with the international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in particular those identified in decisions D (45), O (45) and B (46).

Work to be undertaken: In its decision D (47) the Commission:

(a) Confirmed its readiness to encourage within the resources available the process of transition to market economy in the countries of eastern and central Europe;

(b) Invited Governments of the member countries, the European Community, competent international institutions and private donors to examine possibilities to finance workshops, symposia and other similar informal activities on transition issues organized under the auspices of the ECE as well as the participation of experts from interested countries of eastern and central Europe;

(c) Requested the Principal Subsidiary Bodies to contribute within their competence to the preparation of workshops, symposia and other similar informal activities on the transition to market economy;

(d) Reiterated its request to the Executive Secretary, within the mandate of the Commission and in accordance with decision O (45), to facilitate consultations with interested countries and international institutions in order to provide expertise on programmes of transition to a market economy;

(e) Invited the Executive Secretary to study issues on privatization with special accent on the analysis of successful measures as well as negative experience of the European countries in this field within his current research work and to publish the results as appropriate; and

(f) Invited the Executive Secretary, in addition to the work already undertaken and in the light of his report E/ECE/1254, to prepare in cooperation with organizers and other participants a comprehensive study evaluating the results of workshops to be submitted to the ad hoc informal meeting of the Commission with a view to preparing concrete recommendations concerning the organization and methodology of future workshops for the next annual session of the Commission.

Duration: Continuing.

00.1.4 Institutional arrangements for ECE

Description: In its decision P (45), The Commission requested its Chairman to convene an ad hoc informal meeting of the Commission, at least once every three months, with, *inter alia*, the following tasks: (a) to consult on policy matters concerning the activities of the Commission; (b) to assist preparations for the annual sessions of the Commission; (c) to monitor progress in the work programmes of the Commission; (d) to offer any necessary guidance to the Executive Secretary on the work of the Commission.

Work accomplished: Four ad hoc Informal Meetings were held since the adoption of decision P (45).

Work to be undertaken: Further ad hoc informal meetings will be convened by the Chairman of the Commission in accordance with decision P (45).

Duration: Continuing.

00.1.5 Economic cooperation in the Mediterranean in the light of the Final Act of the CSCE

Description: The Commission and its Principal Subsidiary Bodies pay particular attention to projects and activities of interest to the Mediterranean countries of the ECE region, bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the Final Act and other Concluding Documents of the CSCE. The Commission's subsidiary bodies identify areas of interest, particularly in the field of transport and environment, for economic cooperation in the Mediterranean within the framework of over-all ECE activities and the Commission's programme of work. The Executive Secretary cooperates with the secretariats of ESCWA and ECA and other relevant United Nations bodies and pursues contacts with all Mediterranean countries not members of the Commission, on subjects within the competence of the ECE of common interest to the Mediterranean countries.

Work to be undertaken: In its decision G (47) the Commission:

(a) Stressed the need to devote a special effort to the protection and amelioration of the Mediterranean ecosystem as referred to in the report of the CSCE Meeting on the Mediterranean held in Palma de Mallorca;

(b) Called upon the Executive Secretary to continue to undertake action-oriented studies to explore effective means of economic cooperation in the Mediterranean, in particular in the priority areas of the ECE, for consideration by the Principal Subsidiary Bodies of the Commission,

(c) Requested the Executive Secretary to press for the ECE's involvement with the UNDP-ECE Mediterranean Transport Development Project so that it might be adopted and made operational as soon as possible;

(d) Expressed satisfaction at the activities carried out by the Transport Study Centre for the Eastern Mediterranean in Volos (Greece), the Transport Study Centre for the Western Mediterranean in Barcelona (Spain), and the Transport Training Centre in Istanbul (Turkey), confirming that they are of practical value not only for transport issues in the Mediterranean, but for the work of the Inland Transport Committee in general and invited the Committee to take full advantage of the work done by the Centres, inter alia by continuing its cooperation with the Mediterranean Transport Centres in programmes of common interest;

(e) Recalled Council resolution 1988/169 and invited the Executive Secretary to continue to pursue his efforts for the implementation of that resolution and to report thereon at the fifty-fifth session of the Inland Transport Committee;

(f) Welcomed the decision of the Conference of European Statisticians to accept gratefully the offer of the Government of Italy to host in October 1992 the meeting of Statistical Offices of the Mediterranean countries and invited all interested ECE member countries to participate in this event, with a view to enhancing cooperation in this sector among countries in the Mediterranean basin;

(g) Invited the Executive Secretary to contribute to the preparations of the next Meeting of Experts on Human Settlements Problems in Southern Europe, to be held in Seville (Spain) in October 1992 on the theme of "Urban design and architecture with respect to Mediterranean climate and sustainable development" and urged ECE member countries to participate actively in the meeting; and

(h) Requested the Executive Secretary to continue to facilitate consultations regarding the Mediterranean Technical Assistance Programme (METAP) and the Mediterranean Special Programme of Action (MEDSPA) with a view to strengthening further the environmental management and development in the Mediterranean region.

Duration: Continuing

00.1.6 The provision of adequate resources for the servicing of the priority sectors of the Economic Commission for Europe

Description: In its decision B (47) the Commission, conscious that the efficiency and effectiveness of the ECE, like other UN organizations, depends to a large extent on the contribution of properly qualified and experienced staff, and bearing in mind the importance of transparent and impartial selection procedures, implemented in a timely manner, noted with concern that work of particular importance to the Governments of member States in areas identified as priorities was being seriously hindered and delayed by unfilled vacancies and by the difficulties in redeploying essential human and material resources to these areas.

Work to be undertaken: In its decision B (47) the Commission:

(a) Requested that the vacant post of Head of the Trade Facilitation Unit and the other vacant posts in the area of Trade Facilitation should be filled without further delay and, if appropriate, that the Unit be given further resources to fulfil its tasks;

(b) Expressed its appreciation of the measures taken by the Executive Secretary to implement the provisions of decision O (45), including the redeployment of posts and, wherever possible, the transfer of staff to strengthen priority sectors, and encouraged him to continue his efforts, within existing resources, to enlist the support of the Department of Administration and Management at UN Headquarters in filling vacancies in the priority sectors, and in particular to appoint a Director of the Statistical Division, and to provide urgently needed equipment to the Divisions in the priority areas, without further delay;

(c) Invited the Executive Secretary to continue to urge the Department of Administration and Management to take the necessary action to anticipate ECE vacancies brought to its attention, as far ahead as possible, and to expedite appointments to enable decisions to be made and to be notified to candidates well in advance of the expected departure of the incumbents;

(d) Invited the Chair Person of the Commission, together with the Executive Secretary, to arrange consultations with the Bureaux or the Chair Persons of the Principal Subsidiary Bodies and the Working Parties reporting directly to the Commission, in order to identify difficulties in the implementation of their work programmes and to facilitate the further streamlining of their activities, so as to ensure the most efficient use of existing resources; also invited the Chair Person of the Commission to report at Ad Hoc informal meetings the results of the consultations and to suggest, whenever appropriate, practical proposals for consideration by member countries, by the secretariat and by Principal Subsidiary Bodies and the Working Parties reporting directly to the Commission;

(e) Requested the Executive Secretary expeditiously to draw the attention of Permanent Missions of the member countries in Geneva to any problems of human and financial resources, as well as general management challenges confronting the secretariat, at Ad Hoc informal meetings of the Commission; and

(f) Requested the Executive Secretary to bring this decision to the attention of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to report on action taken at the next Ad Hoc meeting of the Commission.

Duration: One year (1992/93)

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 00.2: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS, PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS IN THE ECE REGION

00.2.1 Review of economic developments, problems and prospects in the ECE region

Description: At its annual sessions the Commission will review economic developments, problems and prospects in the ECE region.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The annual economic survey, economic bulletin and other special studies and statistical bulletins prepared and published by the secretariat were made available to the Commission for this annual review. In its decision B (46), the Commission invited the Senior Economic Advisers and the secretariat, in accordance with the relevant provisions of decision O (45) and having in mind the right and responsibility of the secretariat to exercise independent judgement in its analysis, to deepen their consultations in order to achieve the highest quality of the annual Economic Survey of Europe, notably by improving pre-publication exchange of views; and stressed the need for this Survey to be published in time to enable it to be properly studied and reflected upon during the annual session (para. 8).

Duration: Continuing

00.2.2 Population

Description: In accordance with the provisions of decision G (40), the Executive Secretary carries out work in the field of population, within existing resources, and maintains collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for the implementation of the relevant recommendations of regional meetings of experts on population convened periodically, but not more than every two years, in cooperation with UNFPA. These meetings aim to provide consultations amongst Governments and the dissemination and exchange of information on population problems and policies in the ECE region.

Work accomplished: Collaboration with UNFPA is maintained through projects dealing, respectively, with economic and social implications of aging, population and development in southern Europe, integration of population and socio-economic policies, migration, and promotion of fertility and family surveys in the ECE region. Funding for these projects is provided by UNFPA.

Work to be undertaken: ECE, in cooperation with the Council of Europe and UNFPA, will organize a European Population Conference in Geneva from 23 to 26 March 1993 as a regional contribution to the World Population Conference in 1994.

Duration: Continuing.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 00.3: RESOLUTIONS BEARING ON THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

00.3.1 Review and follow-up of resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly bearing on the work of the Commission

Description: At its annual sessions, the Commission will review the resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly which have a bearing on its work and will decide on the action to be taken by it in the light of the provisions of those resolutions and decisions.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The Commission undertakes this review on the basis of the Executive Secretary's note in which he brings to the Commission's attention the resolutions and decisions bearing on the work of the Commission which were adopted by the Economic and Social Council and by the General Assembly during the period since the previous session of the Commission, and the relevant work under way.

Duration: Continuing.

00.3.2 The Commission's contribution to the follow-up of the 1985 World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women

Description: In accordance with decision J (40) the Executive Secretary will continue to assess developments with respect to the economic role of women in the ECE region in conjunction with other research activities of the secretariat, taking into account the roles and responsibilities of the regional commissions in developing and implementing the system-wide, medium-term plan for women and development and the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. By its resolution 1990/12 the Economic and Social Council convened a World Conference on Women in 1995. Work will be undertaken to prepare a regional contribution to the World Conference in 1995.

Work accomplished: The secretariat has undertaken a time use study of women in the ECE region, with the financial support of INSTRAW. The regional commissions, including ECE, have agreed to undertake parallel activities in the field of women in cooperation with INSTRAW.

Work to be undertaken: In accordance with decision H (44) the secratariat will concentrate on an Inventory of the scope and content of time-use/time-budget questionnaires and of time-use studies, and will make this data available to member countries. Consideration will be given to the holding of a regional preparatory meeting for the World Conference in 1995.

Duration: Continuing.

00.3.3 The Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development

Description: The Commission welcomed General Assembly resolution 44/227 on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 42/186 on the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond and 42/187 on the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED), as well as General Assembly resolution 44/288 on the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. In its decision H (45) the Commission reiterated its call upon its subsidiary bodies actively to promote sustainable development as a guiding principle for all relevant activities of the ECE, and agreed to intensify its efforts towards promoting and achieving sustainable development by integrating environmental concerns and considerations into projects and programmes in all areas.

Work accomplished: The results of the regional conference at ministerial level (Bergen, 8-16 May 1990) to review progress in the follow-up of selected aspects of the Report of the WCED were communicated to the appropriate Principal Subsidiary Bodies. A Joint Working Group on Environment and Economics was established to consider relevant parts of the outcome of the Bergen Conference.

Work to be undertaken: The Senior Economic Advisers, in coordination with the OECD and the UNCED secretariat, will analyse further the interrelationship between economic activity and the environment, identify major factors affecting sustainable economic development in the ECE and study guidelines to achieve such sustainable economic development in the region, taking into account the particular situation of the countries in transition.

The Executive Secretary will continue to bring to the attention of the Executive Secretaries of the other regional commissions the ECE activities aimed at contributing to sustainable development and strengthening of international cooperation in this field, and in particular the results and follow-up of the Bergen Conference.

In its decision E (47) the Commission:

(a) Appealed to ECE member Governments and the European Community to strengthen their cooperation and intensify their efforts in the area of the protection and improvement of the environment, and to integrate the environmental dimension in their national policies;

(b) Requested the Executive Secretary to ensure the necessary internal coordination on environmental questions and to enhance the cooperation and coordination with the European Community, OECD, UNEP and relevant international organizations;

(c) Emphasized the importance of elaborating, in close coordination with OECD, a programme for environmental performance reviews for ECE member Governments which are non-members of OECD;

(d) Encouraged the further implementation of the ECE-wide campaign "Energy Efficiency 2000", aimed at enhancing trade and cooperation in energy-efficient, environmentally-sound technologies and improving management practices among ECE member countries; and

(e) Asked the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems and other relevant bodies of the Commission to contribute to sustainable industrial development and invites the Working Party on the Chemical Industry to follow up the conclusions of the High-Level Meeting on Cooperation and Sustainable Development in the Chemical Industry (Warsaw, Poland, 10-12 March 1992).

Other provisions of decision E (47) were addressed to the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems (programme category 03).

Duration: Five years (1988-1992).

00.3.4 Climate change

Description: The General Assembly has recognized climate change as a common concern of mankind, and called on all relevant organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to support the work of the joint WMO/UNEP Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Work accomplished: In accordance with decision E (46), the substantive issues related to climate change have been taken up by a number of Principal Subsidiary Bodies.

Work to be undertaken: The Executive Secretary will continue the assessment of the Commission's programmes, activities and discussions bearing on the relationship of human activities and the climate, taking also into account the work and studies of the INC, IPCC, OECD and IAEA.

Duration: Three years (1989-1992).

00.3.5 International cooperation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant

Description: In its decision C (46), the Commission recalled Assembly resolution 45/190 and Council resolution 1990/50, and expressed profound concern about ongoing effects on people's lives and health of the disaster at Chernobyl, which had serious national and international consequences of unprecedented scale. It noted the work being done by the Committees on Timber, Agriculture, and Human Settlements, the Conference of European Statisticians, and the Working Parties on the Chemical Industry and on Engineering Industries and Automation, in exploring the possibilities to elaborate within their competence projects on problems arising from the Chernobyl accident.

Work accomplished: A number of ECE subsidiary bodies have continued to review proposals for activities to address and mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. The secretariat has participated in the work of the Inter-Agency Task Force set up by the United Nations Coordinator in accordance with Assembly resolution 45/190.

Work to be undertaken: The Commission requested these subsidiary bodies to continue their efforts in this direction, and invited other subsidiary bodies to examine the possibility of making a contribution to this end. The Executive Secretary was requested to support the efforts of the subsidiary bodies in implementation of Assembly resolution 45/190. The secretariat will continue to participate in the work of the Inter-Agency Task Force.

Duration: Continuing

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 00.4: COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

00.4.1 Review of the Commission's cooperation with other United Nations bodies

Description: At its annual sessions the Commission will review its activities in support of and its contribution to other United Nations programmes, especially those of UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNFPA and INSTRAW, as well as of the other regional commissions. It will also consider matters relating to its cooperation with other United Nations bodies including the specialized agencies such as FAO, ILO, UNESCO, UNIDO and WHO, as well as IAEA. Special attention will be paid to problems of the member countries of the ECE which are developing from the economic point of view as part of the Commission's contribution to the global programmes and objectives of the United Nations aiming at economic development.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The Commission carries out this review annually on the basis of the Executive Secretary's report on the participation of such organizations and programmes in the Commission's work; on the Commission's own contribution to the programmes of these organizations; and on the secretariat's cooperation with the secretariats of these organizations, including the secretariats of the other regional commissions.

Duration: Continuing.

00.4.2 Review of the Commission's cooperation and coordination of activities with other international organizations and institutions

Description: At its annual sessions the Commission will review its activities related to cooperation and coordination of its activities with other international economic organizations and institutions, and with international non-governmental organizations participating in the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, with particular regard to those organizations and institutions mentioned in decision O (45).

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The Commission undertakes this review annually on the basis of the Executive Secretary's report on the relevant activities arising out of the participation of such organizations and their secretariats in, and the contribution they make to, the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

Duration: Continuing.

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SUB-PROGRAMME 01 - DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AND POLICIES

Authority: Programme of work of the Senior Economic Advisers to ECE Governments, approved by the Senior Advisers at their twenty-seventh session (ECE/EC.AD/38, paras. 42-45 and Annex I)

Programme activity 01.1: Exchange of information on economic development

Programme elements

01.1.1 Exchange of information on the development of national economies (1)
01.1.2 Exchange of information on policies, programmes and projections (1)

Programme activity 01.2: Long-term projections and perspectives

Programme elements

01.2.1 Growth conditions in the period 1991-1995 and their long-term implications (5)
01.2.2 Specialized long-term macro-economic data base and further development of the SEM system of macro-economic models (3)

Programme activity 01.3: Selected structural economic issues

Programme elements

01.3.1 Trends and factors in the development of personal and collective services and their impact on economic growth
01.3.2 International trade and structural changes - interregional and intraregional trends of development (2)
01.3.3 Structural changes in employment, labour productivity and working patterns and their impact on economic growth (6)
01.3.4 Sustainable economic development (4)

SUB-PROGRAMME 02 - FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (INCLUDING FORESTRY PRODUCTS)

02(A) - AGRICULTURE

Authority: Programme of work of the Committee on Agricultural Problems, approved by the Committee at its forty-third session (ECE/AGRI/118, paras.50-64 and Annex I)

Programme activity 02(A).1: Economic analysis of the agri-food sector

Programme elements

02(A).1.1 Review of agricultural markets and trade (4)
02(A).1.2 Activities of the Working Party on Economics of the Agri-Food Sector and Farm Management (1)
02(A).1.3 Prices of agricultural products and inputs (9)
02(A).1.4 National agricultural accounts (13)

Programme activity 02(A).2: Agriculture and the environment

Programme elements

02(A).2.1 Economic, legal, technological and regulatory measures for the promotion of environmentally sustainable agriculture and production of healthy food: survey of current measures, recommendations, guidelines, codes; effective implementation and monitoring of compliance; economic and social impact; elaboration of new measures and regulations (3)
02(A).2.2 Integrated environmentally sound agricultural practices (5)
02(A).2.3 Effects of radionuclear accidents on agriculture and measures for the elimination of their consequences (11)
02(A).2.4 The relation between environmental factors (including pollution by industries and other human activities) and the quantity and quality of agricultural production: economic, regulatory and institutional aspects (8)

Programme activity 02(A).3: Standardization of perishable produce and quality developments

Programme elements

02(A).3.1 Activities of the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development (2)
02(A).3.2 Quality of products in the agri-food sector (10)

Programme activity 02(A).4: Food and agricultural statistics

Programme element

02(A).4.1 Improvement, development and harmonization of food and agricultural statistics (6)
02(A).4.2 Preparation of agricultural censuses (in countries in transition) (7)
02(A).4.3 Preparation of a manual of principles and definitions used in international collections of food and agriculture statistics (12)

SUB-PROGRAMME 02(B) - TIMBER

Authority: Programme of work of the Timber Committee, approved by the Committee at its forty-ninth session (ECE/TIM/59, paras.37-51 and Annex I)

Programme activity 02(B).1: Analysis of developments in the long-, medium- and short-term

Programme elements

02(B).1.1 Appraisal of long-term timber trends and prospects (2)
02(B).1.2 Medium-term trends in industry structure and markets in specific forest products sectors (7)
02(B).1.3 Review of short-term forest products market developments and prospects (1)
02(B).1.4 Quantification and evaluation of the environmental and other non-wood benefits of forests (6)
02(B).1.5 Trends, prospects and policies in forestry and forest products in southern Europe (22)

Programme activity 02(B).2: Collection, dissemination and improvement of forest and forest products statistics

Programme elements

02(B).2.1 Collection of forest products statistics and publication of the Timber Bulletin (3)
02(B).2.2 Improvement of the quality of forest and forest products statistics (including their collection and dissemination systems) (11)
02(B).2.3 Forest resource assessment (4)
02(B).2.4 Forest fire statistics (17)
02(B).2.5 Productivity in the forest sector (12)
02(B).2.6 Transfer of economic and statistical methods and experience in the forest and forest products sector (18)

Programme activity 02(B).3: Forest technology, management and training

Programme elements

02(B).3.1 Silvicultural operations and general management aspects (8)
02(B).3.2 Wood harvesting and transport (9)
02(B).3.3 Vocational training, applied ergonomics, occupational safety and health of forest workers (10)

Programme activity 02(B).4: Issues related to a sound and sustainable development of the forest and forest products sector

Programme elements

02(B).4.1 Energy conservation and self-sufficiency in the mechanical wood-processing industries (21)
02(B).4.2 Implications of air pollution and other damage to forests for wood supply and markets (20)
02(B).4.3 Economic, silvicultural, ecological and technical problems of the rational use of forest biomass (15)
02(B).4.4 Competitivity of sawnwood (19)
02(B).4.5 Development of new products, markets and applications for forest products (14)
02(B).4.6 Information exchange on occurrences of sudden and severe damage to forests (16)

Programme activity 02(B).5: Assistance to the economies in transition in central and eastern Europe

Programme elements

02(B).5.1 Programme of assistance to the economies in transition in central and eastern Europe (5)

Programme activity 02(B).6: Issues accorded special priority by the Commission or the Committee

Programme elements

02(B).6.1 Problems in the forestry and forest industry sector arising from radiation contamination, particularly from the Chernobyl disaster (13)

SUB-PROGRAMME 03 - ENVIRONMENT

Authority: Programme of work of the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems, approved by the Senior Advisers at their fifth session (ECE/ENVWA/24, paras. 66-78 and Annex II).

Programme activity 03.1: Policy issues

Programme elements

03.1.1 Environment and economics (A)
03.1.2 National environmental performance reviews (B)
03.1.3 Improvement of environmental management in countries with economies in transition (A)
03.1.4 Bilateral and multilateral financial cooperation of relevance to environmental protection (B)
03.1.5 Responsibility and liability (C)
03.1.6 Environmental rights and obligations (B)

Programme activity 03.2: Environmental impact assessment

Programme elements

03.2.1 Interim implementation of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (A)

Programme activity 03.3: Air pollution problems

Programme elements

03.3.1 Activities of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (A)

Programme activity 03.4: Environmental technology and waste management

Programme elements

03.4.1 Regional Strategy for Integrated Waste Management (B)
03.4.2 Low-waste technology and environmentally sound products (B)
03.4.3 Environmental product profiles (B)
03.4.4 Application of low-waste technology (C)
03.4.5 Management of hazardous chemicals (A)

Programme activity 03.5: Water management

Programme elements

03.5.1 Interim implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (A)
03.5.2 Guidelines for ecosystems-based water management (B)
03.5.3 Water-quality objectives and criteria (A)
03.5.4 Prevention and control of water pollution from fertilizers and pesticides (B)

Programme activity 03.6: Industrial accidents

Programme elements

03.6.1 Interim implementation of the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (A)

SUB-PROGRAMME 04 - HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Authority: Programme of work of the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning, approved by the Committee at its fifty-second session (ECE/HBP/83, paras. 57-64 and Annex II).

Programme activity 04.1: Basic issues

Programme elements

04.1.2 Human settlements situation and related current trends and policies (1)
04.1.2 Housing policies (2)
04.1.3 Development of human settlements statistics (7)
04.1.4 International harmonization of the technical content of building regulations (12)
04.1.5 Promotion of international trade in construction products (16)

Programme activity 04.2: Sustainable development of human settlements

Programme elements

04.2.1 Promotion of international cooperation in the field of urban and regional research (4)
04.2.2 Socio-economic aspects of housing modernization policies (8)
04.2.3 Promotion of energy conservation and a healthy indoor climate in buildings (10)
04.2.4 Planning for sustainable tourism development in the ECE region (11)
04.2.5 Impact of technological change on urban and regional development (technopoles) (13)
04.2.6 Building pathology and prevention of disorders (14)
04.2.7 Human settlements problems in southern Europe (15)
04.2.8 Construction in seismic regions (17)

Programme activity 04.3: Process of socio-economic transition

Programme elements

04.3.1 Handling of real property and land registration for promoting economic development, improvement of urban management and planning (3)
04.3.2 Comprehensive policies for renewal and modernization of human settlements (5)
04.3.3 Housing forecasting and programming (6)
04.3.4 Distributional aspects of housing and taxation policies (9)

SUB-PROGRAMME 05 - INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

05(A) - CHEMICALS

Authority: Programme of work of the Working Party on the Chemical Industry, approved by the Working Party at its first session (ECE/CHEM/83, para. 36 and Annex II).

Programme activity 05(A).1: Long- and medium-term trends and prospects for sustainable development in the chemical industry

05(A).1.1 Market trends and outlook for selected chemical products (6)
05(A).1.2 Sustainable development in the chemical and related industries (1)

Programme activity 05(A).2: Statistics and current developments in the chemical industry, including international trade

Programme elements

05(A).2.1 Annual Review of the Chemical Industry (3)
05(A).2.2 Studies of national developments in the chemical industry (9)
05(A).2.3 Development of internationally comparable statistics, including those of specialized products (7)
05(A).2.4 Publication of the Bulletin of Trade in Chemical Products (8)

Programme activity 05(A).3: Economic issues and information on the chemical industry including assistance to countries in transition

Programme element

05(A).3.1 ECE Directory of the Chemical Industry (2)

Programme activity 05(A).4: Environmental and resource issues in the chemical industry

Programme elements

05(A).4.1 Substitutes for tripolyphosphate in detergents (10)
05(A).4.2 Management of plastic wastes in the ECE region (4)
05(A).4.3 Waste treatment in industrial parks (5)

Programme activity 05(A).5: Advanced chemical processes and products

Programme elements

None

05(B) - ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES AND AUTOMATION

Authority: Programme of work of the Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation, approved by the Working Party at its eleventh session (ECE/ENG.AUT/46, para. 35 and Annex I)

Programme activity 05(B).1: Current medium- and long-term trends and prospects in engineering industries and automation

Programme elements

05(B).1.1 Medium- and long-term assessment of engineering industries within national, regional and global economies (A)
05(B).1.2 Current developments and prospects in the engineering industries and automation, including appropriate aspects of international cooperation in this sector (A)

Programme activity 05(B).2: The role of engineering industries in environmental protection and resource saving

Programme elements

05(B).2.1 Foundry production and ecology (B)
05(B).2.2 Low-waste processes and automated equipment for the production of precision instruments for engineering industries (C)

Programme activity 05(B).3: Special issues in engineering industries and automation of relevance to economies in transition

Programme elements

05(B).3.1 Adjustment of engineering industries in economies in transition (A)

Programme activity 05(B).4: Selected issues in the engineering industries and in automation

Programme elements

05(B).4.1 Food-processing machinery including packaging techniques (C)
05(B).4.2 Rehabilitation engineering (A)
05(B).4.3 New materials and their application in engineering industries (B)

Programme activity 05(B).5: Statistics in engineering industries and automation

Programme elements

05(B).5.1 Development of internationally comparable statistics (A)
05(B).5.2 Publication of the Bulletin of Statistics on World Trade in Engineering Products (C)

05(C) - STANDARDIZATION

Authority: Programme of work of Working Party on Standardization Policies, approved by Working Party at its first session (ECE/STAND/34, paras. 26-28 and Annex).

Programme activity 05(C).1: Coordination

Programme elements

05(C).1.1	Identification of problems (6)
05(C).1.2	Regular guidance on programme of work for international standardization through identification of sectors which are of interest to member Governments (7)
05(C).1.3	Preparation and implementation of recommendations (8)
05(C).1.4	Identification of sectors which could lend themselves to priority preparation of multilateral or bilateral agreements for the recognition of test results and of recommendations to that effect to interested Governments and bodies (9)

Programme activity 05(C).2: Harmonization

Programme elements

05(C).2.1	Review of developments, prospects and problems at the international, regional and national levels (10)
05(C).2.2	Measures to facilitate the harmonization of principles and practices of standardization and related activities (11)
05(C).2.3	Measures to facilitate the implementation of standards and technical regulations (12)
05(C).2.4	Approval of definitions of terms used internationally in the field of standardization and related activities (13)
05(C).2.5	Presentation of ECE recommended standards and harmonized technical regulations (14)
05(C).2.6	Preparation and implementation of recommendations (15)

Programme activity 05(C).3: Conformity assessment

Programme elements

05(C).3.1	Identification of needs and problems (1)
05(C).3.2	Promotion of international certification systems and arrangements (2)
05(C).3.3	Measures to achieve mutual confidence in the technical competence and reliability of national certification systems (3)
05(C).3.4	Establishment of recommendations relating to testing activities and laboratory accreditation (4)
05(C).3.5	Aspects of metrology relevant to testing activities (5)

05(D) - STEEL

Authority: Programme of work of the Working Party on Steel, approved by the Working Party at its first session (ECE/STEEL/76, paras. 76-79 and Annex II).

Programme activity 05(D).1: Long-term trends and prospects in the iron and steel industry

Programme elements

05(D).1.1	Long-term prospects in the iron and steel industry (11)

Programme activity 05(D).2: Current developments and medium-term prospects in the iron and steel industry, including international trade

Programme elements

05(D).2.1	Short-term developments and prospects in the steel industry and the steel market (1)
05(D).2.2	Studies of national developments in the iron and steel industry (6)

Programme activity 05(D).3: Economic and technological issues in the iron and steel industry

Programme elements

05(D).3.1	The restructuration and management techniques in steel industries in countries in transition towards market-economy conditions (7)
05(D).3.2	Economic aspects of developments in the quality of steel products (10)

Programme activity 05(D).4: Environmental and resource issues in the iron and steel industry

Programme elements

05(D).4.1	Metallurgy and ecology (5)
05(D).4.2	Steel product quality and maximum utilization of scrap (8)
05(D).4.3	Problems arising from the use of iron and steel scrap (9)

Programme activity 05(D).5: Iron and steel statistics

Programme elements

05(D).5.1	Development of steel statistics (2)
05(D).5.2	Publication of steel statistics (3)
05(D).5.3	Statistics on iron and steel scrap (4)

SUB-PROGRAMME 06 - INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

Authority: Programme of work of the Committee on the Development of Trade, approved by the Committee at its fortieth session (ECE/TRADE/178, paras. 23-25 and Annex I).

06(A) - TRADE FACILITATION

Programme activity 06(A).1: International trade procedures

Programme elements

06(A).1.1 Facilitation of international trade procedures including documentation, trade data elements and automatic data interchange (1)

06(B) - TRADE

Programme activity 06(B).1: Analysis and review of recent and prospective trade trends, policies and problems

Programme elements

06(B).1.1 Review of recent and prospective trends, policies and problems affecting intraregional trade, including financing and compensation trade (2)

Programme activity 06(B).2: The development and transparency of market information, marketing and financing techniques and improved business contacts

Programme elements

06(B).2.1 Information relevant to the promotion of trade and industrial cooperation (5)

06(B).2.2 Business opportunities and the promotion and diversification of intraregional trade (7)

Programme activity 06(B).3: Promotion of trade through investment and industrial cooperation

Programme elements

06(B).3.1 Review of recent and prospective trends and policies affecting foreign investment, joint ventures and other forms of industrial cooperation and consideration of means for creating favourable conditions for foreign investment and industrial cooperation (3)

06(B).3.2 Preparation and revision of Guides and General Conditions relating to contracts for international commercial transactions (4)

Programme activity 06(B).4: Trade problems of the member countries of the ECE which are developing from the economic point of view

Programme elements

06(B).4.1 Review of trade problems specific to these member countries and consideration of action regarding identified problems and measures to improve their trade promotion efforts (6)

SUB-PROGRAMME 07 - ENERGY ISSUES

Authority: Programme of work of the Committee on Energy, approved by the Committee at its first session (ECE/ENERGY/18, paras. 24-25 and Annex III)

Programme activity 07.1: Energy reforms in central and eastern Europe

Programme elements

07.1.1 Market adaptation of energy-intensive industies in central and eastern Europe (1)
07.1.2 Transition of coal industry from central planning to market economy
07.1.3 The implication of economic reforms in central and eastern Europe on electric power demand, supply and cooperation
07.1.4 Economic reforms and restructuring in eastern and central Europe - their implications and signficance on gas market and gas industry in the ECE region

Programme activity 07.2 Rational use of energy, efficiency and conservation

Programme elements

07.2.1 Energy Efficiency 2000 (2)
07.2.2 Energy efficiency standards (5)
07.2.3 Energy conservation developments, policies and prospects in the region (7)
07.2.4 Rational use of coal, efficiency and conservation
07.2.5 Energy efficiency in electric power
07.2.6 Rational use of gas, including conservation and efficiency measures

Programme activity 07.3: Interface between energy and the environment

Programme elements

07.3.1 Interface between energy and environment: sustainable development (4)
07.3.2 Techniques for the evaluation of alternative instruments in the light of environmentally sustainable development (9)
07.3.3 Sustainable coal development
07.3.4 Environmental protection related to coal mining and coal utilization
07.3.5 Environmental aspects in electric power
07.3.6 Sustainable development in electric power
07.3.7 Gas industry and the environment, including climate change and sustainable development

Programme activity 07.3: Energy reforms in central and eastern Europe

Programme elements

07.3.1 Market adaptation of energy-intensive industries in central and eastern Europe
07.3.2 Transition of coal industry from central planning to market economy
07.3.3 The implication of economic reforms in central and eastern Europe on electric power demand, supply and cooperation
07.3.4 Economic reforms and restructuring in eastern and central Europe - their implications and significance for gas markets and the gas industry in the ECE region

Programme activity 07.4: Energy policies and prospects and related statistics and projections

Programme elements

07.4.1 National energy programmes, policies and prospects, and related balances, projections and data banks (3)
07.4.2 Annual Bulletin of Energy Statistics for Europe (11)
07.4.3 Overview of energy activities in ECE (12)

Programme activity 07.5: Energy demand and supply issues for sustainable development

Programme elements

07.5.1 Significant new developments affecting energy demand and supply in the short and medium run (6)
07.5.2 New and renewable sources of energy (NRSE) (8)
07.5.3 Developments in the coal industry
07.5.4 Electric power developments
07.5.5 Developments in the gas industry

Programme activity 07.6: Energy trade, trade facilitation and infrastructure

Programme elements

07.6.1 Energy trade in the ECE region in the worldwide context (10)
07.6.2 Market trends and trade facilitation in the coal industry
07.6.3 Interconnection of networks in Europe
07.6.4 Gas trade and interconnections, and extension of gas networks in Europe

SUB-PROGRAMME 08 - SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Authority: Programme of work of the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Science and Technology, approved by the Senior Advisers at their nineteenth session (ECE/SC.TECH/42, paras. 23-25 and Annex I).

Programme activity 08.1: Current developments in science and technology policies

Programme elements

08.1.1 Review of changes in national policies, priorities and institutions, and international cooperation (1)

08.2.2 State policy in economies in transition aimed at promoting innovation (3)

Programme activity 08.2: Selected issues in science and technology

Programme elements

08.2.1 Inventory of existing safety guidelines in biotechnology (2)

SUB-PROGRAMME 09 - TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS AND TOURISM

Authority: Programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee, approved by the Committee at its fifty-fourth session (ECE/TRANS/94, paras.128-129 and Add.1)

Programme activity 09.1: Transport trends and economies

Programme elements

09.1.1	Review of general trends with regard to transport development and transport policy (1)
09.1.2	Analysis of specific transport economic issues (2)
09.1.3	Development of transport in the Mediterranean Region (3)

Programme activity 09.2: Road transport

Programme elements

09.2.1	Road transport infrastructure (1)
09.2.2	Harmonization of requirements concerning international road transport and facilitation of its operations (1)
09.2.3	Road transport safety (1)
09.2.4	Construction of vehicles (1)

Programme activity 09.3: Rail transport

Programme elements

09.3.1	Rail transport infrastructure (1)
09.3.2	Linking of the European transport network to that of other regions: Railways (3)
09.3.3	Harmonization of requirements concerning international railway transport and facilitation of its operations (1)

Programme activity 09.4: Inland water transport

Programme elements

09.4.1	Inland waterway infrastructure (2)
09.4.2	Harmonization of requirements concerning international inland waterway transport and facilitation of its operations, including study of legal provisions (2)
09.4.3	Harmonization and improvement of standards for inland navigation vessels (3)
09.4.4	Inland water transport safety (1)

Programme activity 09.5: Transport of dangerous goods

Programme elements

09.5.1	Regulations on the transport of dangerous goods by road, rail, inland waterways and combined transport (1)

Programme activity 09.6: Environmental protection and energy saving in transport

Programme elements

09.6.1	Impact of transport infrastructure and operations on the environment including pollution and noise (1)
09.6.2	Promotion of economy and efficiency in transport (2)

Programme activity 09.7: Combined transport

Programme elements

09.7.1	Promotion of combined and multimodal transport (1)
09.7.2	Safety requirements for the construction, maintenance and handling of combined transport equipment (2)

Programme activity 09.8: Customs questions affecting transport

Programme elements

09.8.1 Harmonization of requirements concerning several modes of transport and facilitation of their operation (2)

Programme activity 09.9: Transport of perishable foodstuffs

Programme elements

09.9.1 Harmonization of regulations and standards relating to the international transport of perishable foodstuffs and facilitation of its operations (2)

Programme activity 09.10: Transport statistics and information

Programme elements

09.10.1 Methods of collection and definition of statistics on inland transport and road traffic accidents (2)

09.10.2 Harmonization of transport statistics in Europe (3)

09.10.3 Publication of statistical information in the field of transport (3)

Programme activity 09.11: Facilitation of movement and transport of disabled persons

Programme elements

09.11.1 Road, rail and inland water transport aspects (3)

Programme activity 09.12: General issues

Programme elements

09.12.1 Periodical circulation of selected transport information (3)

SUB-PROGRAMME 10 - STATISTICS

Authority: Programme of work of the Conference of European Statisticians, approved by the Conference at its thirty-ninth session (ECE/CES/38, paras. 89-94 and Annex III).

Programme activity 10.1: Organization and operation of statistical services

Programme elements

10.1.1 Issues of statistical policy (A)
10.1.2 Adaptation of statistical services to transition and integration processes in Europe (A)
10.1.3 Promotion of the coordination of international statistical work (A)

Programme activity 10.2: Statistical information technology

Programme elements

10.2.1 Use of Electronic Data Processing for statistical purposes (A)
10.2.2 Statistical Computing Programme (SCP)
10.2.3 Design and development of statistical databases
10.2.4 Statistical output for dissemination to information media (C)

Programme activity 10.3: Economic statistics

Programme elements

10.3.1 Development of national accounts
10.3.2 Foreign trade statistics (C)
10.3.3 Indicators of short-term economic and technical change (A)
10.3.4 Manufacturing statistics (C)
10.3.5 Agriculture statistics (A)
10.3.6 Forest and forest industry statistics (A)
10.3.7 Statistics of services (A)
10.3.8 Transport statistics (A)
10.3.9 Statistics of household income (A)
10.3.10 Price and quantity statistics
10.3.11 International comparisons
10.3.12 Business registers in national statistical offices (C)
10.3.13 Methodological issues in the collection, processing, dissemination and analysis of economic statistics (C)

Programme activity 10.4: Social and demographic statistics

Programme elements

10.4.1 Coordination of social and demographic statistics
10.4.2 Methodological issues in the collection, processing, dissemination and analysis of social and demographic statistics (C)
10.4.3 Registers for social and demographic statistics in national statistical offices (C)
10.4.4 Labour force statistics (B)
10.4.5 Migration statistics (A)
10.4.6 Population and housing censuses (A)
10.4.7 Statistics on women (A)
10.4.8 Human settlements statistics (A)
10.4.9 Demographic projections (B)
10.4.10 Fertility surveys (B)

Programme activity 10.5: Natural resource and environment statistics

Programme elements

10.5.1	Energy statistics (A)
10.5.2	Development of concepts, definitions and classifications in individual areas of environment statistics
10.5.3	Development of an international environmental data service
10.5.4	Methodological problems of environment statistics
10.5.5	Frameworks for environment statistics

Programme activity 10.6: Support for ECE publications, studies and projects

Programme elements

10.6.1	Publication of statistical bulletins (A)
10.6.2	Support for the statistical work of other ECE Principal Subsidiary Bodies (A)
10.6.3	Provision of statistical information for ECE studies and projects (A)
10.6.4	Substantive support for statistical activities financially supported by UNDP (C)

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